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ABSTRACT

This document consists of all 11 issues of this newsletter published in 1992 (Nov.-Dec. was a combined issue). This newsletter reports on cooperative national and international preservation activities and is written primarily for university administrators and faculty, library and archives administrators, preservation specialists and administrators, and representatives of consortia, governmental bodies, and other groups sharing Commission on Preservation and Access goals. Topics addressed by the 1992 issues include: (1) organizational activities, such as task force reports and conferences; (2) funding opportunities; (3) grants awarded to the commission and a list of institutional sponsors; (4) reviews of research and scientific reports on topics pertaining to preservation; (5) activities of allied organizations; and (6) preservation programs abroad. (KRN)

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ISSN 1045-1919

THE COMMISSION ON PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE ACCUMULATED HUMAN RECORD AS FAR INTO THE FUTURE AS POSSIBLE

NEWSLETTER

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Numbers 41-51 1992

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ISSN 1045-1919

The Commission on Preservation and Access

Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Newsletter

Number 41 January 1992

Hewlett Foundation Continues Support of Cooperative Programs

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has announced the award of a $450,000 grant to the Commission to support national and international preservation and access programs. The three-year grant provides a continuation of funding from the Hewlett Foundation, which is one of the charter supporters of the Commission. The grant will contribute to a broad range of preservation programs and projects.

Board Approves Technology Contracts

At its September 1991 meeting, the Commission Board approved the following contracts to carry forward explorations of the interinstitutional use of digital technologies to preserve and enhance access to deteriorating library and archival materials.

A contract with Yale University covers the first phase of a study to scan 10,000 volumes from preservation microfilm into digital image format. During this new phase, Yale will identify the hardware and software for the project, establish partnership relationships with vendors, and develop a staffing plan and budget.

A contract with Cornell University enables the University Library and Information Technologies to carry forward their collaborative project to optically scan 1,000 brittle books and provide scholar access to the digitized texts at individual workstations. The November-December 1991 issue of the newsletter included an interim report on the project's progress to date. In the next phase of the project, Cornell will test the feasibility of producing preservation microfilm directly from scanned digital images as well as providing national access over the Internet to the digitized information.

A contract with MAPS, The MicrograPhic Preservation Service, recommended by the Joint Task Force on Text and Image, will test the viability of color microfilm for brittle books and journals containing a mixture of text, black-and-white illustrations, color plates, fold-out maps, and so forth. The project will explore the acceptability of color microfilm as an archival preservation medium, as well as an alternative means for bundling a variety of image formats and text.

Appraisal Task Force to Address Repository Guidelines

A new task force considering the application of appraisal guidelines to possible strategies for determining priorities for the preservation of nonprint collections held its first meeting at Commission headquarters last month. The session succeeded in formulating a potentially useful outline for the development of guidelines to help repositories determine and then address the varying preservation needs of their collections. A series of drafts of the proposed guidelines will be circulated among the members until their next meeting, scheduled for February 21, 1992.

Task Force members are: Robert Sink, New York Public Library Archives (chair); Frank Boles, Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University; Paul Conway, Archival Research and Evaluation Staff, National Archives; Edie Hedlin, a consultant affiliated with the Winthrop Group; and Christine Ward, Bureau of Archival Services, New York State Archives. See page 1 of the November-December 1991 Newsletter for more information on this task force and the new documentation strategy task force, both staffed by Margaret Child.

Preservation Exhibit Premieres at MLA Conference

Members of the Modern Language Association were the first to see the Commission's new modular brittle book display during MLA's Annual Convention in San Francisco last month. In partnership with the Research Libraries Group, Inc., the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University, the Commission distributed complimentary materials, including J. Hillis Miller's *Preserving the Literary Heritage*. In addition, preservation and access was the theme of a breakfast hosted by MLA's executive director, Phyllis Franklin, and attended by representatives of division committees and discussion groups.

Commission Moves to New Headquarters

As of December 20, 1991, the Commission has a new address and phone number:

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(202) 939-3407 FAX

IP05/1385

Foundation Support Boosts Preservation Programs in NYS

A grant of $200,000 from the Goldsmith-Perry Philanthropies, Inc., under the leadership of author Barbara Goldsmith, is being used by New York University's Bobst Library to support its preservation program and establish a permanent preservation endowment. "At NYU, we estimate that 40% of our holdings are in need of preservation treatments," said NYU Dean of Libraries Carlton C. Rochell. "These funds will make a real and demonstrable difference as we work against the clock to rescue our most fragile materials."

Goldsmith, a prominent author and social historian, is a long- time champion of book preservation and of the use of acid-free paper. She was elected to the Commission's Board last year. In honor of the contribution, the library has named its in-house facility the Goldsmith-Perry Conservation Laboratory.

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Meanwhile, a grant of $10,000 from the New York State Newspapers Foundation will enable the New York State Newspaper Project to microfilm one-fifth of the historic newspapers of the Capital District region. The money will be matched with an additional $10,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The combined funds will be used to preserve over 100,000 pages of newsprint on microfilm. The New York Newspapers Foundation was established in 1977 by the New York Newspaper Publishers Association to encourage the advancement of freedom of speech and of the press and to promote education, study and scientific research in all related fields.

A book is the only place where you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear that it will go off in your face.

Edward P. Morgan

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The Commission on Preservation and Access was established in 1986 to foster and support collaboration among libraries and allied organizations in order to ensure the preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and to provide enhanced access to scholarly information.

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Patricia Battin President; Maxine K. Sitts Program Officer and Newsletter Editor; Pamela M. Davis - Administrative Assistant; Patricia Cece Communications Assistant. The Commission is accessible via BITNET (CPA@GWUVM, SITTS@GWUVM) and by FAX (202) 939-3407.

Technology Demonstrations, Assessment of Commission Topics of NACP Annual Meeting

Representatives from 22 library, academic, governmental and scholarly organizations comprising the National Advisory Council on Preservation (NACP) met in mid-November at Commission headquarters to hear presentations on collaborative digital imagery demonstration projects underway at Cornell and Yale Universities. Anne Kenney, Assistant Director, Department of Preservation and Conservation, reported on Cornell University's collaborative project with The Xerox Corporation and the Commission, to test a prototype system for recording deteriorating books as digital images and producing, on demand, high quality and archivally sound paper facsimiles.

Millicent Abell, University Librarian; Donald Waters, Head, Library Systems Office; and Michael Keller, Associate University Librarian for Collection Development, described Yale's Digital Preservation Project, which seeks to create a 10,000-volume digital image library using preservation microfilm as its source and to provide broad access to the digitized material.

Both Yale and Cornell see their projects as part of a cooperative effort to engage in systematic testing of variations of preservation technology. Findings will be shared between the two projects, as well as with other institutions that are expected to participate in the future.

Abell, a Commission Board member, requested the group's reactions and comments on the recommendations of the Review and Assessment Committee, which recently examined the first five years of work of the Commission. [See *Review and Assessment Committee Report*, September 1991, available from the Commission at no charge.] Abell will present the substance and findings of the discussion, which centered on the scope and priorities of the Commission, the concept of a national preservation strategy, and the role and constituency of the NACP, to the Board at its January 1992 meeting.

New Guide for Libraries Enhances Access to Preserved Materials

A recently-published manual, *The OCLC Guide to Preservation Data*, seeks to streamline the library community's task of preserving millions of original items that risk deterioration. The new publication from OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., describes how libraries can use OCLC's central registry to record and provide access to important preservation information. The procedures enable libraries to record their intent to preserve materials, which assists cooperative efforts and helps avoid duplicative activities.

The new guidelines are expected to result in faster and more consistent recording of information about preserved materials, which in turn will enhance scholars' and library users' access to those resources.

More information is available from Kate Nevins, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017-3395.

A Research Review

The Characterization of Microenvironments and the Degradation of Archival Records: A Research Program

This research review was prepared at the Commission's request by Gary Frost of BookLab, as part of the Commission's scientific research initiative.

The Characterization of Microenvironments and the Degradation of Archival Records: A Research Program, by Elio Passaglia, National Bureau of Standards, Institute for Materials Science and Engineering, October 1987, NBSIR87-3635. A Report Prepared for the National Archives and Records Administration. [Note: Since this report was issued, the National Bureau of Standards has changed its name to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

***

This report is interdisciplinary, even before considering its reference to problems of preservation administration. The chemistry of pollutant/paper reaction, the physics of gaseous diffusion and dynamics of energy exchange are all reviewed in reference to the model of the style F manuscript box as a storage microenvironment. Further, the report provides an opportunity for a shared scientific research agenda between scientific investigators and those who must decide what actions will best extend the service life of collections.

The report is divided into three sections all concerning preservation implications of the microclimate produced by boxed storage. There are sections on "Models and Microenvironments," on "Degradation and its Prediction: Data Availability," and a section presenting "A Research Program," developed from implications of the preceding material.

The study begins with calculation of diffusion rates of a pollutant gas through the component walls and gaps and proceeds to calculations to monitor changes in concentration of a pollutant gas with changes in surrounding pressure and temperature. Breathing modes equalize inside/outside concentrations. The formulae indicate that the F style box with gaps and seams will not impede diffusion and can only control interior concentration if the walls are reactive with the intruding pollutant.

Two interesting additional models, the bound book and impermeable film encapsulation, are also examined to define their mechanisms of pollutant gas diffusion. Both also indicate the importance of intimate surface contact as a factor in of gas phase reaction. Though these models were disassociated from the central investigation, they do suggest variables in modeling the microclimate of the F style box. New technologies in automated production of custom fitting enclosures, film sealing of irregular box contents and foldering options would bring relevance to both the book and encapsulation model in consideration of gas diffusion into boxed contents.

The second section on accelerated aging and predictability of storage life is presented to further validate the proposed research project to follow. A useful summary of pollutant gas reactions and paper aging techniques is provided. Though the first section concerned rather ageless chemistry and physics, this section reviews work which is in rapid transition. Recent further work includes investigation of pollutant catalyzed aging of paper including application of artificial, as opposed to accelerated, aging testing.

The final section proposes a research program to study any protective interaction of containers with pollutant gases. The proposed research would also focus on identification of the degradation products of the gas phase reactions to better establish the protective role and requirements of a buffered container.

A subsequent report; NISTIR 4456, "Studies on the Degradation Products of Paper with and without Pollutants in a Closed Environment, I. Preliminary Results," E.J. Parks, C.M. Guttman, K.L. Jewett and F.E. Brinckman, May 1990, was produced in partial response to the proposed research program. This study examined degradation products produced in newsprint and rag papers in gas phase reactions with and without the addition of a pollutant gas. In this report "six organic acids were tentatively identified as degradation products which are mobile and which may be transferred from one paper to another by surface or gas diffusion."

NISTIR 4456 is of interest to the preservation librarian for its method of interpretation of the effects of detrimental aging in terms of the specifically identified decomposition products. The concentrated pollutant gas (2500 ppm SO2) was not implicated in the extensive degradation of the test papers, however, the degradation products identified can also diffuse or migrate through paper and could themselves constitute a damaging pollutant. In the micro and macro environment of stored book and document collections such internally generated pollutants could catalyze more damage than pollutant invaders from outside.

So NISTIR 4456 points to the final investigation recommended by the Passaglia work. This proposed study would examine the role of reactive container walls as a barrier to pollutant gas damage. Following that study preservation librarians may ask further questions, but by then the interaction of manager and scientist will itself be well catalyzed.

The inevitable presence of pollutant gases in urban settings and storage areas, their reactivity with newsprint and lignin, and the probability of archive acidification unchecked by direct treatment, all indicate a need for a strategic countermeasure. If the exposure of acidic collections to pollutant gases can be controlled by sacrificial and protective reactions of their enclosing containers and contacting folders such a countermeasure is identified. In light of these National Archives based reports preservation administrators can accept this working concept as a component in the provision of non-damaging storage environment.

Interim Reports on Color Microfilm Research

Two contractors conducting Commission-sponsored research on color microfilm under a grant from the Getty Grant Program have provided progress reports on their activities. The Image Permanence Institute (IPI), Rochester, New York, has been investigating the dark stability of color microfilm products. In the second year of the project, IPI has more data, but because of the nature of problems being addressed (physical behavior as well as dye stability), it will be at least another year before full results will be available.

As of October 1991, the results continue to verify the trends evident in the first report (see March 1991 newsletter). According to IPI Director James M. Reilly, "The dye stability in the dark of the Cibachrome films is outstanding. We are not sure it will be possible to predict the time at room temperature and 50% relative humidity for even a 10% loss of dye, because too little change is occurring at higher temperatures to allow for a prediction. The dark stability of the chromogenic films, as expected, is considerably less."

The IPI report notes that the physical test results with Cibachrome show that the tensile properties of the polyester base have degraded faster at high temperature than has been seen in previous studies with black and white silver microfilm on polyester base. However, researchers do not yet know whether this means that Cibachrome base is less stable at room temperature than that of other films. "...even if this were so, the useful life of the product will still likely be several hundred years at room temperature, and in our opinion it is an excellent preservation medium for color imagery," Reilly noted.

A progress report from MAPs, The MicrograPhic Preservation Service, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on a Color Microfilming- Continuous Tone Processing contract focuses on results regarding color microfilming. MAPS has opted not to do its own color microfilm processing and to use Micro Color International for that function, because of its experience and existence of required specialized processing equipment. Basic testing of a Herrmann & Kraemer color camera system and Cibachrome film has been completed, and research is underway on a problem related to the duplication of 35mm reels of color film. Currently, it is thought that the duplication problem, created because the silver content is bleached away in processing the originally exposed Cibachrome film, will either force the acceptance of sprocketed film, or require three separate filmings to produce the required archive master, print master, and service copy. In its test filming to date, MAPS has opted for the three-filming scenario, which required a significant increase in camera time.

Free Preservation Video Available from UMI

Caring for Your Microform Collection: The Next Step in Preservation, a 13-minute video on proper storage and handling techniques of microform collections, is available free from University Microforms International. Temperature and humidity control, preservation microfilm/fiche cleaning and inspection are among the topics discussed. The VHS-format video complements another video distributed by UMI, *Providing a Future for the Past.* To order, call 1-800-521-0600, ext. 3801 or 1-800-343-5299, ext. 3801 from Canada.

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Number 42

Newsletter

February 1992

Jewelry History Endangered by Acidic Paper

A new study of access to and preservation of research library materials used by jewelry historians confirms the need for proactive measures to ensure the survival of their contents. Christine De Bow Klein, who conducted the study during an internship at the Commission, investigated a core bibliography of 284 books compiled from listings supplied by nine jewelry professionals and scholars as well as 11 bibliographies from heavily cited authors. The intent of the project was to formulate a preservation strategy for the field of jewelry history and to encourage the interest of jewelry historians, appraisers, professionals, collectors, and connoisseurs in the preservation of materials that support scholarly jewelry research.

Much of the project's methodology is applicable to other disciplines wishing to conduct similar preservation and access inquiries.

Much of the project's methodology is applicable to other disciplines wishing to conduct similar preservation and access inquiries. The study begins to identify a core of material that is compiled and cited and should be targeted for preservation. Despite the poor condition of many of the books, including newer titles published on acidic paper, searches of the OCLC database indicated that only 28 of the cited books have been microfilmed to preserve their contents.

Klein, who recently completed her masters degree at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, found seven libraries holding a substantial number of the items in the bibliography: The Library of Congress, The Smithsonian Institution Libraries, The U.S. Geological Library, the Richard A. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the Winterthur Library.

A final paper, *Jewelry History: Strategies for Preservation and a Core Bibliography*, describes the study methodology and results, making a case for preservation of jewelry history materials. The report may be ordered from the Commission for $12.00, with prepayment by check required. Make check payable to "The Commission on Preservation and Access" — U.S. funds only, and send orders to the attention of Trish Cece, Communications Assistant.

MLA Program Spotlights Preservation Strategies

Nearly half of the 78 section heads of the Modern Language Association (MLA) attended a breakfast program hosted by Executive Director Phyllis Franklin during the 107th annual convention of the Modern Language Association, December 1991, in San Francisco. The language scholars discussed responsibilities for preservation with speakers J. Hillis Miller, Department of English & Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine, and George Farr, Director of the Division of Preservation and Access, National Endowment for the Humanities.

At a Commission exhibit, staff from the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, and the Research Libraries Group, Inc., handed out over 300 copies of Miller's report, *Preserving the Literary Heritage*. A fact sheet on what scholars can do to promote preservation, developed and distributed at the conference by the Stanford libraries, is available at no cost from the Commission, as an example for adaptation and use by other universities.

A fact sheet on what scholars can do to promote preservation, developed and distributed at the conference by the Stanford libraries, is available.

New Address

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Final Appropriations for NEH Preservation Programs

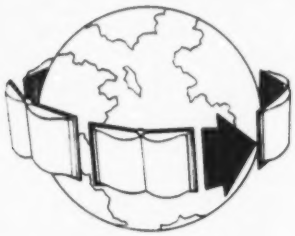
The Interior Appropriations bill for FY1992 (HR 2686) received final congressional approval and was signed into law (PL 102-154) on November 13. Preservation programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) were cut by $2.5 million, for a total of $22.4 million. The $2.5 million cut came from the National Heritage Preservation Program (museum artifact conservation). [Excerpt from the American Library Association *ALA Washington Newsletter*, November 26, 1991]

Slow Fires Circles the Globe

As a part of the Commission's International Project, the film/video *Slow Fires* has been used in the following situations:

— Zentralbibliothek Zurich: For a possible showing on Swiss television.

— German Library Institute, Berlin: The institute has acquired a copy of the video for its own use and as example of a similar documentary for Germany.



— International Edition, *Reader's Digest*: Robert Wernick, writer, used the documentary in preparation for an article on deteriorating library collections that has been published in more than a dozen of the *Digest's* international editions.

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Patricia Battin, President; Maxine K. Sitts, Program Officer & Newsletter Editor. BITNET: SITTS@GWUVM. FAX (202) 939-3407.

— Association pour Sauver les Documents dans les Bibliothèques Françaises, Paris: The association is considering providing a French narration or creating a similar film/video for France.

— European Foundation for Library Cooperation: Hermann Liebaers, President, arranged for the film to be shown on Belgium national television.

— Deutsche Bücherei, Leipzig: The former East German National Library arranged for several showings of the video to library staff.

— National Library of Portugal: The video will be shown to several groups in the national library and the Portuguese Library Association.

— Commission of the European Community (CEC): Jon Bader, consultant to the CEC, used the video in preparation of his feasibility study for a European Register of Microform Masters. Copies were made available to Directorate General XIII (Telecommunications, Information industries and innovation) and Directorate General X (Information, communication, and culture). The CEC (Directorate General X) is planning a campaign to raise public awareness concerning acidic and permanent paper.

— China: During a recent trip, several lectures on international preservation issues included a showing of *Slow Fires*, with a member of the Library Resources Panel of the Committee on Scholarly Communication of the People's Republic of China providing the Chinese narration. At Wuhan University, the Dean of the School of Library and Information Science exchanged a copy of the video for a preservation documentary created there.

— Hans Rütimann, Consultant, International Project

Note: *One-hour and one-half hour versions of* Slow Fires *are available for loan from the Commission and for sale from the American Film Foundation, Santa Monica, CA, (213) 459-2116.*

Preservation Management Seminar Scheduled for 1993

The College Libraries Committee, in cooperation with SOLINET, Inc., is planning to offer a second Preservation Management Seminar in 1993. The first seminar, developed jointly by the Commission and SOLINET Preservation Service, was held July 20-27, 1991 at Washington & Lee University. At that event, 16 college library staff members were trained in implementing effective strategies for preserving their general collections.

In advance of the 1993 seminar, committee members will be contacting directors of the participating libraries to conduct a formal evaluation of the 1991 seminar. Further information can be obtained from SOLINET, phone 800-999-8558.

NHA, ARL & ALA Hold Capitol Hill Briefing on Preservation

The National Humanities Alliance, Association of Research Libraries, and American Library Association sponsored a briefing session for the House Appropriations Committee members and their staff on January 31 on Capitol Hill. The purpose of the briefing was to increase the visibility of and support for the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) preservation program prior to the FY93 hearings and budget discussions. Five individuals made brief presentations: Patricia Battin on the value of the NEH program, M. Stuart Lynn (a member of the Technology Assessment Advisory Committee) on the application of digital technologies for preservation, Robert Oakley (author of *Copyright and Preservation: A Serious Issue in Need of a Thoughtful Solution*) on copyright issues, Kathleen Moretto Spencer (chair of the College Libraries Committee) on the experiences of small colleges, and William Studer on university participation. Sidney Verba (Commission Board member) moderated the panel.

Science Panel Comments on Fumigants, Photocopying, Paper Aging

A panel of librarians, archivists, and conservators has completed comments on a second set of reports as part of a broad-based science research initiative of the Commission. Two reports on fumigants describe research into methods for eradicating pests without causing harm to humans; more research is planned. The research on copying of unstable archive records provides guidelines that can be incorporated into preservation photocopying programs at many institutions. Finally, a literature review summarizes key research on the complex behavior of paper that forms the cornerstone of current preservation activities.

FUMIGANTS

"Sulfuryl Fluoride (Vikane): A Review of its Use as a Fumigant." Submitted for review by the Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution. Published in *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, V.29, No.1 (Spring 1990). pp.77-90.

—[The researchers] report that "in recent field studies and structural fumigations, little or no damage to the fumigated materials has been observed." The intent of the current research, of which this report is only the first, is to study in-depth "what unobservable effects, if any, Vikane may have on materials commonly found in museums." This is precisely the kind of information preservation officers, library and archive administrators and conservators need in order to make informed treatment decisions for infested collections or buildings. They must be able to evaluate the alternatives and weigh the risks.

Particularly informative for field practitioners is the tabular presentation (Table 1), "Some Fumigants Used in Museums and their Reactivity with Various Materials." Of the seven noted, they report that four are no longer used in the U.S. for library or museum fumigation.

James Wellvang, Head Preservation Dept., University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, AMIGOS Preservation Service

—Of interest to librarians and archivists is the fact that Vikane has not been thoroughly tested for its effect on microorganisms (fungi, bacteria, etc.). Preliminary studies show that it does not kill spores in the same concentrations used to kill insects. Therefore, Vikane is less effective against molds than ethylene oxide. It should be noted that ethylene oxide is considered carcinogenic and is no longer marketed as a museum fumigant. *C. Ward*

***Status Report: Feasibility of Using Modified Atmospheres to Control Insect Pests in Museums.* Submitted for review by the Getty Conservation Institute, 1990. Research conducted by the Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside. This work encourages researchers that nitrogen atmospheres can be used as an effective alternative to toxic fumigation for museum and archive pest control.**

—A means of killing insects in library collections which is safe to humans, non-reactive to the materials infested, and easily and inexpensively applied is a wonderful sounding product. This research does not promise such a product, but as a preservation administrator, I cannot help but believe that this research (as well as other non-toxic approaches) is moving us in that direction. . . .

Keepers of libraries and archives will undoubtedly be interested in the next reported stage of this research: can the exposure time (especially for the all-too-common cigarette beetle) be reduced by altering temperature or relative humidity? And of course, they are also interested in seeing the development of a readily obtainable device for administering this sort of "kill" in the field, should the results continue to the positive.

J. Wellvang, AMIGOS Preservation Service

—Clearly, the extent to which this research might be incorporated into the policies and procedures for pest control management at NARA will depend on the availability of safe, effective, and affordable commercial services for the method described in the status report. *K. Garlick*

—With so many libraries frightened away from fumigation by its toxicity, it is good to see that work is being done on alternative methods. While many libraries and archives choose to bypass fumigation because doing without is a lesser evil than the toxicity risks, some would prefer to be treating selected materials if a safer way could be identified. At Northwestern, this is particularly true for Africana materials. *R. Frieder*

PHOTOCOPYING

***Archival Copies of Thermofax, Verifax, and Other Unstable Records*, with appendix. Submitted by National Archives and Records Administration. 1990. One of a series of Technical Information Papers (#5). NARA provided the complete GPO Final Report, "Archival Xerographic Copying, Special Development Study for the National Archives and Record Administration" (1987), along with a summary of conclusions from the report and a description of Peel Test procedures for electrostatic copy quality.**

—This document is invaluable for any librarian or archivist (in fact, anyone who creates records, particularly any of long-term value) who engages in copying materials using an electrostatic copy machine. The GPO tested fourteen copy machines and found only one that met all established standards for archival copying. Although these results are not conclusive, it can be inferred that some machines may not be suitable for archival copying.

In order to determine whether any machine is producing an archivally acceptable copy, the author offers procedures for a test that can easily be carried out by anyone. Most machines can be adjusted to obtain the appropriate copy. *C. Ward*

—I have not come across another document that explains the photocopying process and analyzes its archival assets and liabilities as clearly and briefly as does this publication. It will help me address issues of archival permanence and longevity with our preservation photocopying vendors. *R. Frieder*

—The appended text of the GPO study offers useful information on xerographic processes and the characteristics of toners and carriers. Assurance is given that toners containing carbon black are quite stable. It is interesting to note that since toners are fused to paper by heat or light, accelerated aging only serves to set the image more firmly and cannot be used to determine the permanence of photocopies. Predictions of longevity must therefore be based on the stability of the paper and toner and tests of the strength of the adhesion of toner to paper when the photocopy is first produced. *M. Byrnes*

—The summary of conclusions . . . provides practical advice for specifying and scheduling copy machine maintenance and service and for determining that any machine is "producing archivally acceptable copy" by using the peel test. The report also recommends procedures in areas often left unmentioned . . . marking photocopies, identifying replacement copies and storing or discarding original unstable documents.

Sharlane Grant, Head, Preservation Department, Arizona State University Libraries, AMIGOS Preservation Service

PAPER - REVIEW OF RESEARCH

***Ageing/Degradation of Paper, A Literature Survey*, by Christer Fellers, Tommy Iversen, Tom Lindström, Thomas Nilsson, and Mikael Rigdahl. FoU-projektet för papperskonservering, Report No.1E, Stockholm, September 1989. ISSN 0284-5636. Prepared by the Swedish Pulp and Paper Research Institute and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.**

—Many preservation professionals are not as familiar with paper chemistry as they would like to be. [The report] covers a lot of ground in varying degrees of detail but provides a useful technical overview of the causes of paper deterioration. While much of it consists of explanations of chemical reactions — and may be tough sledding for those without backgrounds in chemistry or paper science — the report is a valuable reference source and should be added to the collections of all preservation programs and library schools.

During the past several years I have been sitting in on meetings of the NISO committee responsible for revising ANSI Z39.48, the U.S. standard for permanent paper. Had I read the Fellers report before attending those meetings, it would have been much easier to follow some of the committee's technical discussions and to assess the research reports that the committee used in its work. I have to say, however, that the report would have been much enhanced by the addition of a glossary. *M. Byrnes*

—This literary survey is an excellent reference tool for preservation officers, conservators, and librarians interested in understanding the chemical and mechanical processes of paper aging and degradation and the technical processes of testing for deterioration. . . . Although currency related to ongoing research and development is a problem, the information reported is very useful and in itself provides an important historical context.

Randall R. Butler, Ph.D., Coordinator, Special Collections and Archives, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AMIGOS Preservation Service

Further information is available from the panel members: **Margaret Byrnes**, Head, Preservation Section, National Library of Medicine; **Tom Clareson**, Preservation Service Manager, AMIGOS Bibliographic Council; **Richard Frieder**, Preservation Officer, Northwestern University Library; **Karen Garlick**, Senior Conservator, National Archives and Records Administration; **Kenneth Harris**, Director for Preservation, Library of Congress; **Howard P. Lowell**, State Archivist and Records Administrator, Delaware State Archives; **Jan Merrill-Oldham**, Head, Preservation Department, University of Connecticut Library; and **Christine W. Ward**, Chief, Bureau of Archival Services, New York State Archives.

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THE COMMISSION ON PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE ACCUMULATED HUMAN RECORD AS FAR INTO THE FUTURE AS POSSIBLE

NUMBER 43 **NEWSLETTER** MARCH 1992

SPECIAL REPORT

SPEAKERS DESCRIBE TECHNOLOGY, COLLEGE LIBRARIES AT CAPITOL HILL BRIEFING ON PRESERVATION

Over 40 persons, including members and staff of the House of Representatives and Senate, attended the January 31 breakfast briefing on preservation issues sponsored by the National Humanities Alliance, Association of Research Libraries, and American Library Association (see February 1992 newsletter). Short talks on various facets of the nationwide preservation agenda were presented. Among them were the following two presentations. Other speakers were Commission President Patricia Battin, Board members James Govan and Sidney Verba, and Robert Oakley, author of the Commission publication, *Copyright and Preservation: A Serious Problem in Need of a Thoughtful Solution.*

Digital Technologies, Preservation and Access

M. Stuart Lynn, Vice President for Information Technologies, Cornell University; Member, Commission on Preservation and Access, Technology Assessment Advisory Committee

The world of digital technologies — where all information is electronically reduced to a collection of 1's and 0's — continues its relentless march. Costs continue to halve every two or three years and performance or capacity doubles over the same time frame. And there is no end in sight.

These digital technologies have exciting potential for the research libraries of our nation, revolutionizing how we capture, store, and provide access to information and recorded knowledge. My remarks today will be directed to their application to the preservation of books imperilled through embrittlement, and to how such application can improve access to the nation's intellectual heritage.

By contrast, analog technologies such as paper, video, sound, and even microfilm, do not decline rapidly in cost. But it is not only declining costs that are providing the impetus for the shift to digital. There are other factors, such as relative reliability of reproduction and transmission. Photocopies, for example, lose in quality at each successive stage of reproduction, as do microfilms with each generational copy. For these and other reasons, it is only a matter of time before the cost/performance curves cross and digital technologies come to dominate in any given area.

What, then, are some of the obstacles to realizing the inevitable potential of digital technologies, and what do these obstacles mean for preservation and access? I would like to briefly review three major hurdles to be overcome: first, the hurdle of converting between the analog world and the digital world and vice-versa, that is, scanning paper books on the one hand, and providing access to those scanned images on the other; second, the hurdle of ensuring that these scanned digital images can be stored in a form that will be accessible five hundred years from now to meet preservation requirements; and third, implementing the storage and distribution systems needed to provide access at a distance across the nation's networks.

Let me summarize the issues.

At the interface of actual use, analog technologies, are better attuned to the needs of human consumption. As human beings rather than computers, we do not think in 1's and 0's but prefer the warm and fuzzy world of paper, sound and video that we can touch, see, read, and hear. One of the challenges is indeed how we convert back and forth between the use of digital technologies for storage and transmission, and the use of analog technologies for human presentation and use.

We can, for example, scan brittle books to convert them to digital images in a number of ways. One way is to scan the books directly using high-resolution production scanning equipment. A number of projects across the nation are exploring this approach. At Cornell University for the past year or so in a joint pilot project with the Xerox Corporation and the Commission on Preservation and Access, we have scanned almost 1,000 books in a production setting at moderately high resolution reducing them to digital form.

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Board Accepts Assessment Report

Billy E. Frye, chairman, has announced the Board's acceptance of the *Review and Assessment Committee Report*, citing its substantial contribution to the goals and planning of the Commission and noting, in particular, their commitment to maintain a practice of quinquennial review to assess progress and future direction. Copies of the report have been widely distributed; additional copies are available from the Commission at no charge.

The Board also reiterated the Commission's role as one of initiating, catalyzing, and stimulating allied organizations to become involved in preservation and access initiatives, rather than funding and operating an expanding number of programs itself.

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The Commission on Preservation and Access was established in 1986 to foster and support collaboration among libraries and allied organizations in order to ensure the preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and to provide enhanced access to scholarly information.

The **Newsletter** reports on cooperative national and international preservation activities and is written primarily for university administrators and faculty, library and archives administrators, preservation specialists and administrators, and representatives of consortia, governmental bodies, and other groups sharing in the Commission's goals. The **Newsletter** is not copyrighted; its duplication and distribution are encouraged.

Patricia Battin, President; Maxine K. Sitts, Program Officer & Newsletter Editor. BITNET: SITTS@GWUVM. FAX (202) 939-3407.

Participants Reach Working Agreement on Minimum Standards for Data Exchange

Participants in the May 1990 Zurich conference sponsored by the Commission have reached a working agreement on minimum standards for international exchange of bibliographic records of microform masters. The agreement is based on the concept of a minimal exchange record and a home record that can be enhanced at local expense.

"Although there was not total unanimity on the comments received, there was generally a clear preference expressed on the issues raised...," noted Thomas Delsey, Director of Policy and Planning, National Library of Canada, who is coordinating the development of the requirements document. The "clear preference" provides a solid base upon which to build a cooperative international program, with the understanding that participants will continue to work out differences as they gain experience and perspective in this unprecedented international cooperative effort.

The agreement incorporates revisions submitted by the Zurich meeting participants as well as the Library of Congress, Research Libraries Group Inc., Association of Research Libraries, and OCLC Online Computer Library Center Inc.

The Commission is sharing the document with a wider international audience, urging voluntary compliance with the set of minimal requirements.

Documentation Strategy Task Force Begins to Explore Benchmarks

The new Task Force on Documentation Strategy reviewed a discussion paper prepared by member Richard Cox of the University of Pittsburgh, *The Archival Documentation Strategy: Fundamental Assumptions and Major Planning Steps*, and related the assumptions to preservation issues during its first meeting on February 1 at the Commission offices. The task force also began to develop benchmarks for institutions to meet before requesting external funding for a preservation project. Members agreed that grant requirements could be very useful in encouraging institutional change.

Before the next meeting on March 7, the group's chair, Tim Ericson of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, will draft a statement of underlying assumptions to provide a conceptual framework within which to make preservation decisions. Other members will develop sets of questions to be asked of a preservation project at one of three possible levels of treatment. In addition to Cox and Ericson, members include Bruce Bruemmer, University of Minnesota; and Karen Garlick, National Archives and Records Administration.

The task force is one of two new groups formed by the Commission to carry forward the development of a collaborative strategy for preservation of and access to archival manuscript and photographic collections. (See November-December 1991 and January 1992 newsletters for more details.)

Special Report, *continued from page 1*

The production costs are dominated by the labor costs of handling fragile pages and are therefore quite comparable to the costs of microfilming. We have produced high-quality paper facsimiles, printed from these digital images on acid-free paper that should last several hundred years. We are implementing network access to the scanned images from computer workstations across our campus and across the nation.

We can even produce microfilm — for archival purposes — from the scanned digital images, although with today's technologies the microfilm quality on the whole might not be as good as that obtained from directly microfilming the books using conventional techniques.

All of this reflects the extraordinary versatility of digital technologies.

Another way to produce digital images is to microfilm the books first using conventional photographic techniques and later scan the microfilm itself into a digital image

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whenever the film-scanning technology is adequate. Yale University plans to undertake a project testing this approach. The advantage is that to preserve the intellectual content of the book, we can exploit the inherently higher resolution and superior archival quality of film, while providing for improved access across digital networks now or at any time in the future. Today, we can easily scan microfilm in production settings at low to moderate resolution at only a small increment to the original cost of producing the original microfilm. At some point in the future, for the same small incremental cost, we will be able to scan the microfilm at very high resolution that will allow us to capture the fine details of the original document.

The key point is that, either way, we can have our cake and eat it, too. Interchanging between the digital world and the analog world of microfilm is both practical and achievable, the tradeoffs being ones of permanence, resolution and speed. We can exploit the preservation advantages of microfilm today, and the access advantages of digital technologies tomorrow. We can transmit the scanned digital images to distant computer workstations for viewing, and we can print out high-quality paper facsimiles whenever and wherever they are needed.

Let me assure you that the nation's investment in microfilming for preservation continues to be a wise investment. It does not preclude exploiting the advantages of digital access today, nor at any time in the future.

The second hurdle to be overcome underscores this choice. Technology changes rapidly. The forms in which data are stored are also continuing to change. Standards are still evolving. As a result we cannot guarantee that images scanned and stored in digital form today will be accessible even five years from now, let alone five hundred, any more than today we can easily read the punched cards of yesterday. Until we learn how to institutionalize the process of "refreshing" our stored digital images — or to provide alternative forms of backup — to keep up with changing technologies, the stable and standardized properties of microfilm must command our primary attention for preservation, even as digital technologies evolve to provide improved access.

Finally, the third hurdle. We still have much to learn about the best ways to store, share, index, and access digital information. Rapid progress is being made, both in the private and higher educational sectors. The Coalition for Networked Information, a consortium of around two hundred universities and other institutions, is taking leadership in addressing the complex issues involved. Prototype projects are underway, and you will see rapid progress. University faculty, librarians, and publishers no longer view the electronic library in the manner of St. Augustine who prayed "Lord, give me chastity — but not yet," but are coming to regard it as a concept whose time is upon us, not to replace the paper library, but to augment it.

College Libraries and the NEH Preservation Program

Kathleen M. Spencer, Librarian, Franklin & Marshall College; Chair, Commission on Preservation and Access College Libraries Committee

I am exceedingly pleased to tell you how important the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Program is to college libraries, and how essential it is for colleges that the support be continued.

Most of the grants for preservation have been awarded to the large research libraries. This is predictable, and also appropriate. Does this mean that college libraries have been left out? Or, conversely, have the large preservation grants to the major university libraries had an impact on the many small libraries throughout our nation? The answers are: College libraries have not been left out, and yes, the grants have had an impact, and I am happy to tell you why.

The system of libraries throughout the United States functions very much like a complicated ecosystem. It is made up of large research libraries, public libraries of every shape and size, academic libraries like the one I represent, and so-called special libraries; and there exists among us a balance and inter-dependence much like the balance we observe in nature. The end result is the unprecedented availability of library resources for every citizen of our country far beyond what is available and accessible anywhere else in the world.

I remember visiting the giant redwoods in California as a child and being overwhelmed, not only by how gigantic they were, but by the gorgeous fuchsia in hundreds of varieties growing in the density of the woods. Federal funds for library preservation, like the light that filters through a forest, contribute to the health and well-being of the total system.

Franklin & Marshall College was founded in 1787. It is the seventeenth oldest college in the country, and has an outstanding record for producing scientists and physicians. We are proud, none-the-less, of our alumni who have distinguished themselves among your ranks; most recently William Gray and Kenneth Duberstein, and our 20 or so other alums who currently serve on Capitol Hill. Even though our charter claims 1787 as our founding date, the college really didn't get off the ground until the middle of the last century. Our history is not unique; in fact higher education in the United States is, for the most part, a phenomenon of the late 19th century. Predictably, that's when American scholarship burgeoned and as a result when many academic libraries were established. Unfortunately, that is also when machine-made papers from wood pulp entered the marketplace.

I and my colleagues in college libraries are faced with precisely the same problem as directors of large research libraries. The raw numbers may not be the same, but the percentage is constant. At my institution, 25% of our 350,000 volumes are in a state of serious embrittlement.

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That's 87,500 books. A recent survey of 68 libraries at highly selective liberal colleges reports the total number of volumes held at 25.5 million. If indeed 25% of these volumes are brittle — which study after study proves — we are faced with a serious problem — 6.2 million brittle books in only 68 libraries! Alone we are not able to cope with this catastrophe, and therefore we look to our research library partners for help. Since many of these books have been microfilmed through the NEH initiative, we are not without hope, because materials reformatted with federal funds are available to us for purchase or to borrow through the national interlibrary loan network. The important point here is that we have, and will continue to have, ACCESS to these materials well beyond the time that our own copies have turned to dust.

In addition, college libraries have recently been encouraged by NEH to apply for grants. I am delighted to report that Amherst College has received a substantial grant to microfilm the papers of diplomat, financier, and lawyer Dwight W. Morrow. We are also hopeful that Haverford College's proposal to microfilm their unique collection of Quaker materials is successful on this round. The College Libraries Committee of the Commission on Preservation and Access, which I chair, is actively encouraging other colleges to compete for these dollars.

NEH funds for preservation are directly responsible for the fact that I am here today. Because of my horror at encountering a serious problem at Franklin & Marshall, I decided to face the music and to begin a preservation program at my library. I was extremely fortunate in hiring a librarian who had been trained as a National Endowment for the Humanities preservation intern, and together we have established what is, I am told, a model program for a college. And, as a result, we have received several grants to carry out preservation and conservation projects.

• For example, we have been able to restore our Fraktur collection. These are birth and baptismal certificates decorated in the colorful Pennsylvania German style. I've brought a couple along to show you. Although the restoration was not funded by NEH but with private foundation funding, the lab that did the work has benefitted from the Endowment's support which, in turn, has helped to make them an ongoing concern. Without trained persons in preservation and conservation, work like this could not have been done at an affordable price.

• In February, Franklin & Marshall will be hosting a hands-on workshop in disaster preparedness funded with a small grant from the Department of Education. We will be learning emergency techniques to reclaim books damaged by fire and flood. The workshop will be conducted by the Pittsburgh Regional Library Center whose preservation program has benefitted greatly from NEH support. Representatives of 17 small libraries in the eastern part of Pennsylvania will participate.

• Last summer, the College Libraries Committee of the Commission on Preservation and Access sponsored a workshop to train part-time preservation librarians from liberal arts colleges. This workshop was conducted by a library agency in the southeast called SOLINET — also a beneficiary of NEH funding for library preservation. Our committee is currently exploring uses of digital technology for college libraries. With the availability of the National Research and Education Network (NREN), the possibilities for transfer of digitized materials over the high-speed fiber-optic network seem limitless. And I'm absolutely convinced that brittle books reformatted by digital technology will soon be bouncing around the country. Here the National Science Foundation and its grants to connect colleges and universities to the Internet plays a partnership role in facilitating the ACCESS to scholarly information.

I will end here by making the point that monies appropriated for good programs—such as the National Endowment for the Humanities preservation initiative—have far-reaching consequences and that, in this instance, the "trickle-down effect" is for real.

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The Commission on Preservation and Access

Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Number 44

Newsletter

April 1992

International Project Reports on Technology in Spain, Preservation in China

The Commission's International Project has released two reports on recent trips — one to investigate large-scale image scanning of archives in Seville, Spain, and one to explore cooperative preservation and access opportunities in China.

Computerization Project of the Archivo General de Indias, Seville, Spain was written by Hans Rütimann, International Project Consultant, and M. Stuart Lynn, a member of the Technology Assessment Advisory Committee, and Vice President, Information Technologies, Cornell University, after they visited the Archivo in 1991. The Commission sponsored inquiries into this project to learn more about the technical and operational implications of large-scale image scanning. Rütimann visited the facility in late April-early May, and the Commission then asked Lynn to assess the project's technical aspects in September.

The Archivo General de Indias is operating a massive project to preserve and make accessible the contents of the 45 million documents and 7,000 maps and blueprints comprising the written heritage of Spain's 400 years in power in the Americas. Documents date from the 15th through the 19th centuries. The present objective is to scan about 10 percent of the archivo (or about eight million images) in preparation for the 1992 Seville World's Fair and the Columbus quincentenary. Four institutions are involved: The Ministry of

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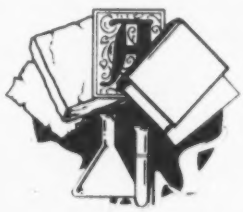

Commission to Hold Invitational Science Workshop

The Commission is sponsoring a two-day invitational science workshop for preservation program managers, to be held in the Washington, D.C., area in September 1992. It is expected to be the first of a series of workshops on the use of scientific research information in preservation decision-making and the solution of critical preservation issues. The objectives of the event are (1) to develop a dialogue between preservation managers and scientists that will help managers to better understand and interpret scientific research and to use scientific information in preservation decision-making; and (2) to discuss specific technical problems and develop a research agenda for helping researchers find solutions to these problems.

Leading scientists active in preservation research will join the 14 invited participants in interactive seminar discussions and lectures. The program topics include approaches to conducting scientific research, how to use scientific information, specific technical subjects, and cooperative approaches for setting research agendas for the future.

The Commission is developing the workshop with the assistance of Peter G. Sparks, scientist and former Director of Preservation at the Library of Congress. The planning of the workshop follows several years of working with preservation managers to develop a research agenda and a systematic collaborative review of scientific research articles.

Law Libraries Develop Recommendations to Address National Preservation Issues

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) has issued a thorough report that contains a set of recommendations, guidelines and prototypes for addressing preservation issues of law libraries on a national scale. The report considers the particular preservation problems of law libraries and describes the current condition of their collections and the status of their preservation programs in North America. In shaping its recommendations, the AALL envisioned a preservation program that could be accomplished within existing committee structure and at minimum expense.

"One advantage of this approach is that it involves a large number of librarians, from all the various types of law libraries, and serves to raise preservation consciousness throughout the Association," the report notes. A portion of the introduction to *American Association of Law Libraries Special Committee on Preservation Needs of Law Libraries Report and Recommendations* (June 1991) is included as an insert to this newsletter. Copies of the report will be made available as an occasional paper by AALL, 53 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

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Bentley Award to Support Archival Project

The Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan has awarded a Research Fellowship for the Study of Modern Archives to Margaret Child. Dr. Child is managing the two task forces operating under the sponsorship of the Commission to develop guidelines to facilitate selection of archival materials for preservation (see Nov.-Dec. 1991, Jan. 1992 and March 1992 newsletters). The Bentley award will support a four-day seminar in Ann Arbor attended by the members of both task forces together with a number of archivists who have been particularly concerned about the issue of selection: Anne Kenney, Cornell University, President of the Society of American Archivists; Larry Hackman, Archivist of the State of New York; Helen Samuels, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; James O'Toole, the University of Massachusetts at Boston; and Evelyn Frangakis, the Society of American Archivists (SAA), who is managing the current NEH preservation training grant to SAA. In addition, Nancy Elkington of the Research Libraries Group, Inc. (RLG), who oversees RLG archival filming projects also will attend.

The purpose of the seminar is twofold: to comment on the task force reports and develop a strategy for encouraging repositories to begin to use them, and more importantly, to focus on the larger issues underlying the need to change institutional practice and develop a national preservation plan for archives.

The Research Fellowship Program for Study of Modern Archives is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

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Patricia Battin, President; Maxine K. Sitts, Program Officer & Newsletter Editor. BITNET: SITTS@GWUVM. FAX (202) 939-3407.

"A book ought to be like a man or a woman, with some individual character in it, though eccentric, yet its own; with some blood in its veins and speculation in its eyes and a way and will of its own."

John Mitchell

Joint Task Force Completes Inquiry; Final Report in Press

The Joint Task Force on Text and Image, operating with funds from the Getty Grant Program under the auspices of the Commission, has completed an 18-month inquiry into scholars' needs for information in books containing both text and image, to help develop a nationwide strategy for preservation of and access to these resources. The task force's report will be distributed by the Commission in early spring.

Members of the task force were:

Nancy S. Allen
Librarian
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Thomas C. Battle
Director, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
Howard University

Robert Brentano
Professor, Department of History
University of California, Berkeley

Richard Brilliant (Chair)
Professor, Department of Art History and Archaeology
Columbia University

David B. Brownlee
Associate Professor, Department of the History of Art
University of Pennsylvania

Janet Buerger
Lecturer
Harvard University Extension

Angela Giral
Librarian, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Columbia University

Anne R. Kenney
Assistant Director, Department of Preservation and Conservation,
University Library
Cornell University

Susan Klimley
Geological Sciences Librarian
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University

M. Stuart Lynn*
Vice President, Information Technologies
Cornell University

Katharine Martinez
Director
The Winterthur Library

James R. McCredie**
Institute of Fine Arts
New York University

Robert G. Neiley
Robert Neiley Architects

R. Nicholas Olsberg**
Head of Collections
Canadian Centre for Architecture

EXCERPTS FROM INTRODUCTION

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PRESERVATION NEEDS OF LAW LIBRARIES

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
JUNE 1991

A. INTRODUCTION

The Special Committee on Preservation Needs of Law Libraries was appointed by President Albert Brecht in 1987, with a two year term, to which a third year was added by President Margaret Leary. Our mandate was to address the preservation issues facing the library community in general and law libraries in particular; to define the specific problems for law libraries; to describe the current condition of collections and status of preservation programs (or lack thereof) in North American Law Libraries; to present our recommended solutions and course of action for the Association, including implementation of a long-range, practical cooperative preservation program for our collections.

We have discovered, "preservation" is a complex, amorphous and vast subject. We have had to redefine our objectives and the parameters of our work, in order to present a viable program of action to the Association. Rather than being able to embark on the implementation phase of a national preservation program, as we had originally hoped to do, we have come to realize that the most we could achieve would be a set of recommendations, guidelines and prototypes for addressing the various preservation issues on a national scale. In doing so, we have attempted to incorporate the preservation objectives for the Association as articulated by the National Legal Resources Committee Report in 1989 and the AALL Strategic Plan 1990.[1]

While acknowledging that preservation is a global problem, AALL has a responsibility to concentrate first and foremost on the preservation issues facing our member libraries, and within them on Anglo-American legal materials. This report includes recommendations for coordination of AALL preservation activities with other groups, both within this country and abroad, which have the capability and mandate to address the preservation of foreign law materials and multidisciplinary materials. The committee focused attention on the preservation of North-American legal imprints, since these are the common denominators for the spectrum of AALL libraries.

Central to our work has been the formulation of a realistic definition of a national program. Its most basic goal is the preservation of as much as possible of the material relevant to our primary constituencies - law faculty, law students, practitioners, judges and government agencies. Secondary goals include achieving this in as cost effective a way as possible

for all involved, and in a way which provides the maximum benefit to the maximum number of libraries.

Although we use the term "national program", we are not in any sense recommending that all preservation work in law libraries be centrally coordinated, but rather that there be a commitment by the Association and its member libraries to an overall scheme which provides for preservation of the legal literature in our collections over time in a pragmatic and even-handed way.

Having predicated the necessity for the immediate preservation of the body of printed North-American legal literature, the Committee gave a great deal of consideration to the question of which constituent parts of this mammoth task are best handled within individual libraries and which are appropriate for co-operative solution.

One problem facing our particular Association in the formulation a national preservation program is the diversity of the libraries it represents. The membership consists of hundreds of law libraries, academic, private, government and court, whose differences - in mission, in constituents' needs, in collection size and nature, funding, staffing and autonomy - are in many ways greater than their similarities. The only universal common denominators relevant in thinking about preservation, are law as the primary subject and focus of the collections and the provision of legal information as the primary service goal....

An AALL national preservation program can establish priorities and serve as a clearinghouse, crossing items off the list as they are preserved, but it cannot impose a set of priorities and values upon individual libraries.

There are three distinct elements to a comprehensive preservation agenda:

(1) preserving the intellectual content of U.S. law libraries;

(2) preserving the physical volumes in law collections;

(3) working towards publications of archivally sound law materials in all available formats.

The committee recognizes that AALL funds are limited and that it would be unrealistic for law libraries to look to AALL to achieve all preservation goals. It therefore recommends that the preservation of legal literature in U.S. law libraries be seen as the joint responsibility of AALL, Law Library of Congress (LLC) and the research law libraries, co-operating through the Research Libraries Group Law Program Committee or other channels.

AALL's preservation program should concentrate the Association's resources on preservation issues which are common to the largest number of law libraries. These are the preservation of general collections in our libraries and the promotion of archivally sound materials for production of future publications in all formats....

John Parascandola
Chief, History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

Donald Posner
Professor, Institute of Fine Arts
New York University

* *Liaison from Technology Assessment Advisory Committee*
** *Did not participate in final report*

"And what steps should we be taking to insure the preservation of electronic information so that our successors will not face the electronic equivalent of the brittle books that are burning up inside our libraries?"

Point of View — "Information Access: Our Elitist System Must Be Reformed," by Douglas Greenberg; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 23, 1991.

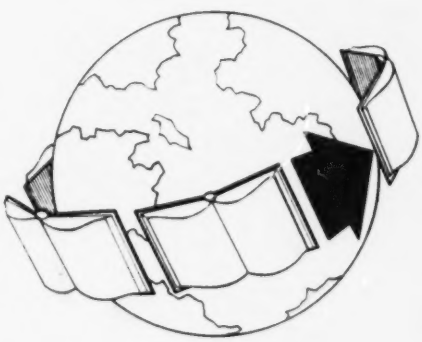
Proposals Underway for Preservation Microfilm Distribution Facility

The Commission has received replies from six organizations that were sent a request for proposal for management of a central distribution facility for preservation microfilms. The Commission asked for an indication of interest in submitting a preliminary proposal for the management of a centralized access and retrieval service to provide products generated from the print masters of preservation microfilms. The request was prompted by the continuing productivity of the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access Brittle Books program. When current grants are completed, 450,000 volumes will be available on film. The NEH program carries with it the obligation to provide cost-effective rapid access to preserved materials as well as separate environmentally secure storage of master negatives and printing masters.

International Project Reports

continued from page 1

Culture, IBM Spain, the Foundation Ramón Areces and the Archivo. According to Rütimann and Lynn, this project shows what can be accomplished when funding and commitment co-exist. They conclude that — as a large-scale reformatting project addressing an entire range of new problems — the work in Seville deserves continued attention.



Preservation and Access in China: Possibilities for Cooperation reports on a visit by Rütimann to the People's Republic of China, September 19 to October 12, 1991.

At the first meeting of the Library Resources Panel of the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China (CSCPRC), held in May 1991, participants agreed to explore the feasibility of a project to enhance the quality of and access to select materials in libraries in China. At that meeting, Commission President Patricia Battin and Rütimann were invited to address the panel on the Commission's activities and its experience in dealing with libraries and archives abroad.

The Library Resources Panel then appointed a group to visit institutions in China and to discuss this proposal further. The Commission sponsored Rütimann's participation in the fact-finding mission not only to facilitate discussion of the preservation aspects of the CSCPRC's proposal, but to establish contacts between the Commission and institutions in China and to assess the possibility of linking activities in China with similar efforts in other countries. The report summarizes Rütimann's visits to nearly 20 libraries, archives, and other institutions throughout the country.

"All that mankind has done, thought, gained or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books."

Hero and Hero Worship by Thomas Carlyle

Rütimann concludes that the Chinese are aware that the condition of their collections presents a growing problem, although many librarians and university administrators in the provinces do not appear to be familiar with the concept of brittle books or with multi-faceted approaches to preservation and permanent paper. He also notes that "most of the libraries we visited contain fine examples of quite old, well-preserved materials. This presents a rich opportunity for the sharing of information."

* * *

Copies of the two reports have been sent to the Commission's mailing list. Additional copies are available for $5.00 each from Trish Cece at the Commission. Orders must be prepaid, with checks made payable to "The Commission on Preservation and Access." Payment must be in U.S. funds; do not send cash.

Subscription Reminder

A primary purpose of the Commission is to establish a two-way communication link with university administrators, scholars, government officials, library directors, and key library staff members to help shape national preservation initiatives. With that goal in mind, this newsletter is produced and funded to provide a direct, regular information flow among individuals actively concerned with preservation issues. To keep our costs at a reasonable level, the circulation is controlled to reflect the above primary audiences. The newsletter is not copyrighted and may be freely reproduced. You can help reduce the Commission's mailing costs by notifying us of unwanted subscriptions and by sending address corrections and changes to Trish Cece, Communications Assistant. Please include your old address label with your request.

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The Commission on Preservation and Access

Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Number 45

Newsletter

May 1992

Joint Task Force Issues Final Report; Recommends Test Projects

The Joint Task Force on Text and Image, whose work is supported by the Getty Grant Program, has completed its final report, *Preserving the Illustrated Text*. The 32-page publication presents the challenges of text-cum-image preservation through both words and photographs of embrittled and deteriorated materials. The perspectives of researchers, faculty, and scholars from a variety of disciplines are combined with those of librarians and archivists in thoughtful discussions of image attributes (e.g., color, black-and-white, size, and adjacency of text and image), the distribution of images in texts, the uses and users of text-cum-image, conservation versus preservation, and alternative technologies for preservation of text and image. Among the conclusions:

An important beginning can be made on the preservation of books and periodicals in the 1850-1880 era in almost all disciplines that depend on images in texts. Current microfilm techniques, i.e., high-quality, high-contrast black-and-white filming, can be used for preserving most of the books in this era, since colored or halftone illustrations are uncommon, and the bulk of illustrations are line cuts or drawings.

The preservation of halftone illustrations in text, increasingly common after 1880, requires further exploration, including additional data about the distribution of images in texts and exploratory trials of alternative technologies for preservation.

The available information about the number and types of images in various kinds of publications in various epochs is insufficient and undependable for large ranges of time and materials.

Further information is needed about the effectiveness, costs and requirements of alternative technologies for preservation of post-1880 text-cum-image material. A series of pilot projects that have been begun by the Commission should be continued and expanded to learn what time, effort, and special problems are involved in capturing text and image by scanning, continuous-tone black-and-white and color microfilming, and in converting among these media for archival storage.

Preserving the Illustrated Text (32 pages, April 1992) is being distributed to the Commission's mailing list. Additional copies are available for $10.00. (Commission sponsors receive all publications on a complimentary basis.)

Testimony for NEH Preservation Programs Highlights Progress, Need for Full Funding

Testimony scheduled for April 9, 1992, on behalf of the fiscal year 1993 appropriations for the National Endowment for the Humanities highlighted the success of the Endowment's preservation activities as evidenced by the growing numbers and high quality of materials resulting from project grants. The testimony also emphasized the need for full funding in 1993 and the development of a new five-year plan by NEH to be submitted with the fiscal year 1994 budget.

As in previous years, the testimony was cosponsored by the Association of Research Libraries, Commission on Preservation and Access, and National Humanities Alliance. Merrily Taylor, University Librarian, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, provided the testimony before The Subcommittee on the Interior and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives, as "the representative of one of the thousands of academic and research libraries across this nation benefitting from the National Endowment for the Humanities' program to preserve and provide access to deteriorated cultural and scholarly resources."

Copies of the full written testimony are available from the Commission. Selected excerpts follow:

. . . The Division provides the nation's libraries and archives with an absolutely vital mix of financial support, advice, and leadership that enables us to contribute

continued on page 2

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Testimony for NEH Programs,

continued from page 1

to and participate in collaborative preservation and access programs. NEH's well-designed program allows us to make the most of our limited financial and human resources by fostering cooperative, non-duplicative solutions to our most pressing preservation problems. . . .

***

For the past three years, witnesses speaking on behalf of ARL, NEH, and the Commission have highlighted the devastating brittleness of the materials we are rescuing in our requests for support. This year, however, we will focus not on the horrendous condition of what needs saving, but instead on the growing numbers and the high quality of materials emerging from the program.

NEH recently reported that 450,000 volumes are either already filmed or undergoing filming as part of the Brittle Books program. Nearly half a million of the nation's most valuable scholarly resources are being saved for future generations, and they are being saved on stable, high-quality microfilm that will allow for transfer to any type of developing electronic format. . . .

***

It is worth noting at this point that preservation and access remain intimately related. Since NEH and other federal funding permits not only the filming but the online cataloging of titles, the use of our collections has increased dramatically. Between 1990 and 1991, interlibrary loan photocopies generated by Brown's Special Collections increased by 179 percent, from 2073 to 5778. Requests for materials doubled. Once scholars are aware that an item exists, and know where to find it, they need no special urging to use it! . . .

***

The crucial thing to remember in reviewing the impact of NEH's preservation leadership upon our country's scholarly resources is that the story told by Brown and Rhode Island is by no means unique or idiosyncratic. We are not one of the nation's ten greatest library collections; we will never equal some of our ARL colleagues in terms of scope or depth across our entire holdings. We are, however, a fine academic library with a handful of collections that are national treasures and deserve to be preserved for use by the nation. In this time of rising materials costs and shrinking educational budgets, our university would simply not have the resources to do large scale preservation microfilming or conservation treatment on its own. . . .

***

The FY-93 proposal of $18 million for libraries and archives is $2.3 million below the fifth-year target. We are concerned that a continuing falling away from the carefully developed targets will (a) decrease the momentum of the program that has truly become a national effort to save these irreplaceable materials, and (b) threaten the overall goal of saving three million volumes. . . . Given the clear success of the first few years, we recommend, Mr. Chairman, that you request the NEH to develop a revised capability statement with funding targets for the second five-year cycle (i.e., FY-94 through FY-98).

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The Commission on Preservation and Access was established in 1986 to foster and support collaboration among libraries and allied organizations in order to ensure the preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and to provide enhanced access to scholarly information.

The **Newsletter** reports on cooperative national and international preservation activities and is written primarily for university administrators and faculty, library and archives administrators, preservation specialists and administrators, and representatives of consortia, governmental bodies, and other groups sharing in the Commission's goals. The **Newsletter** is not copyrighted; its duplication and distribution are encouraged.

Patricia Battin, President; Maxine K. Sitts, Program Officer & Newsletter Editor. BITNET: SITTS@GWUVM. FAX (202) 939-3407.

Project To Demonstrate End-user Products for Text-and-Image Preservation

A demonstration of the variety of end-user products available from black-and-white and color microfilm is underway at MAPS, The Micrographic Preservation Service, Inc. MAPS will work with brittle materials containing a mixture of text, black-and-white illustrations, fold-out maps, and other variant combinations of text and image. The Commission Board approved a contract for the project earlier this year, acting on a recommendation of the Joint Task Force on Text and Image. The project and the work of the Joint Task Force are funded by the Getty Grant Program.

The contract specifies that MAPS will oversee the filming of 29 illustrated numbers of the *New York State Museum Bulletin*, including color plates, and the creation of both silver print masters and CD-ROM discs with keyword searching. The New York State Museum worked with the librarians at Columbia University to compile a test sample of the *Bulletin*, which the Task Force identified as an "excellent test case":

> *It is an old, valuable, heavily illustrated and currently much-used source of information on a variety of subjects. For example, the issues on stone are widely consulted by architects. The inclusive dates for this study are 1887-1959, and the volumes are very brittle. Many of the maps cannot be unfolded without cracking.*

The demonstration is expected to produce both black-and-white and color microfilm images and selected color plates in 105 mm film. MAPS will be subcontracting with Herrmann & Kraemer, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, for the color microfilming. The color images will then be digitized to create enlarged reproductions using color printers. The contract also calls for a CD-ROM version, which will be used as part of a travelling exhibit for professional meetings to test the results with scholars and scientists.

Cooperative Preservation Activities: Update on Reports and Resources

Two reports that are proving useful for the planning and development of cooperative preservation programs remain available from the Commission, although supplies are limited.

A September 1991 report, *Working Together — Case Studies in Cooperative Preservation* by Condict Gaye Stevenson, provides a review of a variety of services and activities developed by cooperative preservation programs over the past two to three years. Information for the 36-page report was acquired through literature searches, telephone interviews at case study sites, and review of documents from the programs.

Included in the review are case studies of the: Office of Library & Archival Materials Preservation, Connecticut; Los Angeles Preservation Network; Nebraska Documents Preservation Advisory Council; Preservation of Acetate-Based Audio Visual Materials, New York; Oklahoma Preservation Initiative; and Pittsburgh Regional Library Center Preservation Service. Conferences and meetings, service providers, and newly-organized cooperatives are referenced. The report includes a three-page selective bibliography.

Stevenson compiled the publication during a three-month internship with the Commission as she was completing her degree at the School of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America. The report is appearing as a chapter in *Advances in Preservation and Access, Volume 1* (Westport, CT: Meckler Corporation, 1992).

A second resource available from the Commission is a report on the *National Conference on the Development of Statewide Preservation Programs* held March 1-3, 1989, at the Library of Congress. The 107-page report was edited by Carolyn Clark Morrow, Harvard University's Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian, to be a practical tool for states interested in developing preservation plans.

The Commission previously has distributed both reports on a complimentary basis to those on its mailing list. Remaining copies may be ordered by sending a check ($5.00 for *Working Together . . . .* $15.00 for *National Conference . . .)* made payable to "Commission on Preservation and Access" to Trish Cece at the Commission. (Commission sponsors receive all publications on a complimentary basis.)

Planners of cooperative programs also may borrow exhibits from the Commission for display at conferences, seminars, and other public events.

Focus on Native American History Information *— That, recognizing its special relationship to Native American peoples, the federal government immediately begin a comprehensive program to collect, preserve, and make available documents relating to Native American history, emphasizing equitable access, including electronic formats.*

—Resolution NIP08-4, The White House Conference on Library and Information Services, 1991

Board Approves Contracts for Digital Image Demonstrations

The Commission Board has approved contracts with the University of Tennessee and The Pennsylvania State University to explore the potential of digital image technology as a preservation and access medium. The contracts, recommended to the Board by the Technology Assessment Advisory Committee, are part of an ongoing collaborative effort by eight universities to develop the necessary practices and protocols for the interinstitutional transfer of preserved scholarly resources.

The Pennsylvania State contract is for a project that will examine the potential of digital image technology for archival collections. The library will collect cost and management data, explore the utilization of alternative combinations of storage technologies, and evaluate access and service improvements made possible by digital technology in conformance with communication protocols designed to provide interinstitutional transmission of digitized materials.

At the University of Tennessee, the library will inquire into the potential of digitized page images as a long-term preservation technique for both text and graphics, using scholarly materials relating to late 19th and early 20th century music, composition, and performance. Both contracts are pending, awaiting delivery of necessary equipment.

Other research and demonstration projects are underway at Cornell University, where 1,000 brittle mathematics books have been digitized and are available for printing on demand, and Yale University, which is looking at the infrastructure necessary to digitize an existing collection of preservation microfilms.

Medieval Academy Continues Preservation Initiatives

The Council of the Medieval Academy of America voted to continue its Committee on Library Preservation until 1995 during its annual meeting in March 1992. The committee functions as the Commission's Scholarly Advisory Group on Medieval Studies. At its annual meeting, the Medieval Academy also sponsored a session on "The Destruction and Preservation of the Medieval Heritage," which included talks on conservation and preservation microfilming projects and a showing of the film, *Slow Fires.*

On display were the committee's list of preservation projects in medieval studies; its recent report, *Preserving Libraries for Medieval Studies — Working Papers from the Colloquium at the University of Notre Dame, March 25-26, 1990* (available for $10.00 from Sophia Jordan, 219 Hesburgh Library, University of Notre Dame, Notre, Dame, IN 46556); and "real crumbling books on medieval topics." Last month, the Medieval Academy borrowed the Commission's modular panel exhibit for display at the International Congress of Medieval Art Meeting in Kalamazoo, MI.

16 Preservation Projects Funded by Title II-C in 1991

A new list released by the Strengthening Research Library Resources Program, HEA Title II-C, U.S. Department of Education, provides information on 16 projects funded in 1991 that include preservation activities. This program awarded a total of $851,780 last year specifically for preservation. Some of the 16 projects include bibliographic control and/or collection development components. Projects with high levels of preservation activities are:

Preservation Microfilming of the Dwight W. Morrow Papers, Amherst College, Amherst, MA.

Preservation of a Heritage Collection: Identifying and Preserving the Core Literature of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Archival Records in Audiovisual Media: Access and Preservation and **Preservation of Russian Illustrated Books and Photographs of the Imperial and Early Soviet Periods**, New York Public Library, New York, NY.

Preservation Microfilming of Arabic Materials, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

Preservation of the Russian Embassy Collections, Stanford University, Hoover Institution, Stanford, CA.

Federation of Southern Cooperatives and Emergency Land Fund Papers, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.

Digitizing the Trust Territory Photograph Collection, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI.

Conservation and Preservation of Confederate Imprints, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA.

The complete list of preservation projects is available from Linda Loeb or Louise Sutherland, Program Staff, Library Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Room 404, Washington, DC 20208-5571.

The Occidental College library, which received no increase in its budget this year, worries about the number of books with pages grown brittle with age. About 25 per cent of its 500,000-volume collection is virtually useless. . . .

. . . Yale University librarians estimate that about 80 per cent of their nine-million-volume collection is printed on acidic paper, which becomes brittle with age. Already about 3.5 million volumes — nearly 40 per cent of the collection — are no longer usable. "Given the fact that we're considered one of the meccas of scholars, we have a special responsibility for preservation," says Millicent D. Abell, university librarian.

—The Chronicle of Higher Education, February 19, 1992, "Threat to Scholarly Resources: Rising Costs and Dwindling Budgets Force Libraries to Make Damaging Cuts in Collections and Services"

New Guidelines for Loan of Commission Exhibits

Information sheets describing the Commission's exhibits available for loan and a new application form for obtaining the exhibits are available from Trish Cece at the Commission. The new procedures have been developed to meet the increasing number of requests for the exhibits. To date, the freestanding modular panel exhibit has been scheduled for display at five events during 1992 (University of Tennessee, the Medieval Academy, AMIGOS, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Pennsylvania State University), and the tabletop giant brittle book exhibit has been booked for four events (Washington University Medical Library, Lafayette College, Amherst College and the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation).

The exhibits may be borrowed for display at conferences, seminars, workshops, and other special events. Institutions also may use the exhibits for short-term display at their own location. Each exhibit is designed to be combined with locally-produced materials to create a customized presentation.

New procedures require the borrowing institution to complete an application form and to pay all shipping charges, plus a $100 fee. (The fee is waived for Commission sponsors.) In some cases, shipping charges can be shared with other institutions.

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Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Newsletter

Number 46 June 1992

Board Acknowledges National Advisory Council, Convenes Group of Preservation Administrators

After considerable discussion and thoughtful review of the Review and Assessment Committee's report, the changing context of preservation activities, and comments of members of the National Advisory Council on Preservation, the Board voted at its April 30, 1992, meeting to dissolve the Council as a formal continuing body, with the hope that the group could be convened on an occasional basis as specific needs arise. In letters to the Council's members, Chairman Billy Frye noted, "On behalf of the Commission's Board and staff, thank you very much for your contributions to the health and vitality of the preservation movement during the critical period of its development." He also acknowledged the group's "important and essential contribution to the launching of a nationwide preservation effort during the past six years."

At the same meeting, the Board voted to establish a group of preservation administrators to work with the Commission in a formal, continuing relationship to explore effective ways for preservation administrators to contribute their expertise to the broader issues of the comprehensive preservation effort. The group is expected to provide a productive forum for the discussion and analysis of problems, needs, and successes and the preparation of an agenda for ways the Commission can assist them through educational opportunities, cooperative activities, public visibility, and financial support.

College Libraries Committee to Investigate Access to Out-of-Print Books

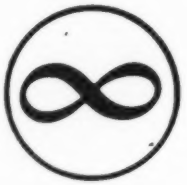
The Board has approved a contract with the Commission's College Libraries Committee to investigate the possibility of enhancing access to out-of-print books by the use of digital technology.

The contract enables Committee members David Cohen, Dean of Libraries, College of Charleston, and Willis Bridegam, Librarian, Amherst College, to undertake preliminary planning in 1992 for a subsequent feasibility study of the economics and technology involved in reprinting out-of-print books. The feasibility study, projected to take place in 1993, would determine the advisability of developing a not-for-profit corporation to keep needed, academic books in print by bit-mapping them on high resolution scanners and by using new on-demand printing equipment to produce limited numbers of copies.

The issues to be studied — costs, hardware and software requirements, copyright, and the management of a digital database — are directly relevant to the use of digital technology for the preservation of and access to brittle books. Products of the initial contract include a business plan, a marketing plan, a licensing agreement, and a draft grant application for the next phase.

Agreement on International Standard for Permanent Paper

In early May, the Commission received word from Rolf Dahlø, chairman of the ISO-committee for Physical Keeping of Documents responsible for the international permanent paper standard (ISO/TC 46/SC 10) that there is a "clear majority" approving the circulation of the committee draft of the standard. The text will be circulated for six months as a Draft International Standard, the last stage before publication of the International Standard. As of May 5, there were 13 approving country votes for the draft, with one vote against. Ivar A.L. Hoel, the Secretary of the SC 10, noted that the ISO draft is very similar to the revised ANSI (NISO) standard presently under ballot and that the two, if they remain unchanged, will be "virtually interchangeable and will . . . make use of the same, well-known infinity symbol."



Hoel also reports that the ISO draft will be sent to the European Standardization Organisation (CEN), which will conduct a ballot on it for a European Standard. Dahlø is with the National Office for Research and Special Libraries, Oslo, and Hoel is Director of The Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen.

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Statewide Preservation Programs Issue Brochures, Reports

The Massachusetts Task Force on Preservation and Access has issued its report, ***Preserved to Serve: The Massachusetts Preservation Agenda***, a guide for cooperative preservation activity in the state, as well as a brochure describing the state's planning process and goals. Massachusetts was one of the early states to receive an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access to develop a collaborative preservation agenda. Beginning in November 1990, a task force of librarians, archivists, town clerks, and preservation specialists worked to survey preservation needs and develop a coordinated plan. The agenda now has been approved by both the state's Board of Library Commissioners and the Archives Advisory Commission. The report and brochure are available from Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, 648 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2070.

The North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) has issued an eloquent report, *A Long and Happy Life. Library and Records Preservation in North Carolina*. This state was another of the first to receive an NEH planning grant. The Consortium was incorporated in 1989 by a diverse group of professionals, technicians, managers, and concerned citizens. After receiving the NEH grant, it studied conditions in government centers, offices, and libraries, and held discussions with citizens and library and archival professionals across the state. The Consortium summarizes its mission as: to inform for preservation, to coordinate for preservation, and to leverage support for preservation; state citizens are invited to become members and support its activities. The 12-page illustrated report is available from Harlan Greene, NCPC, c/o the Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701-3915.

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UPDATE ON MASS DEACIDIFICATION

Library of Congress Issues Action Plan for Mass Deacidification

After concluding that only one mass deacidification process currently has the potential to meet all of the Library of Congress's (LC) preservation and related technical requirements, James Billington, The Librarian of Congress, has requested $375,000 to proceed with the first phase of a three-phase action plan. The plan proposes to correct remaining problems with the technology and to contract for deacidification services in graduated increments, culminating with the treatment of 300,000 books per year at an annual cost of $4.5 million.

In the past few months, LC's Gerald Garvey, Preservation Projects Officer, and Dr. Donald Sebera, Chemist, Preservation Research and Testing Office, visited most of the firms and major institutions in the world offering or evaluating mass deacidification services (25 in all). Based on that survey, the library determined that there is currently no alternative superior to Akzo Chemicals' DEZ process. Other processes, however, may have the potential for *future* commercialization.

The funding requested for FY 1992-93 would enable the library to resolve odor, discoloration, and other problems identified by an evaluation panel that reviewed vendors' proposals in response to a September 1990 Request for Proposals issued by LC. On August 30, 1991, the library canceled the solicitation because none of the vendors met *all* of the library's technical requirements.

When the odor and discoloration problems are resolved, LC plans to seek approval for funding to proceed to deacidify a limited number of books from its collection to gain experience with actual production. The time line for the action plan indicates that 50,000 books would be treated by Akzo during Phase 2, FY 1993-94, and that LC would then move into Phase 3, competitive contracts for deacidification services.

— Excerpted from *Action Plan for the Mass Deacidification Program and Survey of Mass Deacidification and Paper Strengthening Activities*, Preservation Directorate, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1992, and a January 24, 1992, letter from the Librarian of Congress to The Honorable Vic Fazio

Institutional Contexts for Mass Deacidification Explored in ARL Report

A variety of viewpoints from a cross-section of institutions involved in exploring and using mass deacidification technologies is presented in a 115-page report, ***Roundtable of Mass Deacidification***, published by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The report includes the proceedings of a September 1992 roundtable sponsored by ARL and the Northeast Document Conservation Center and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Speakers included research library directors, collection development and preservation officers, and scientists. The report includes the edited texts of talks on management and institutional issues, funding strategies, scientific views, and cooperative approaches to mass deacidification. ***Roundtable on Mass Deacidification***, edited by Peter G. Sparks, is available for $20.00 from the Association of Research Libraries, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Science Panel Comments on Accelerated Aging Tests, Storage of Safety Film

A panel of librarians, archivists, and conservators has completed comments on a set of reports as part of a broad-based science research initiative of the Commission. Two will be discussed here: (1) Accelerated aging remains a major method of testing for paper permanence. A succinct, yet complete, description of these tests by Robert Feller provides useful background information for preservation administrators, since it explains basic principles that have not changed. (2) A three-year project at the Image Permanence Institute sought to measure the rate of deterioration in the major types of safety film. Conclusions and recommendations are particularly useful in a variety of institutional settings.

***Some Factors to be Considered in Accelerated Aging Tests*, Robert L. Feller. Preprint, 15th Annual Meeting (Vancouver, 1987) of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. Available from AIC, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 340, Washington, DC 20036.**

— For members of the archives community, the accelerated aging test is a familiar, accepted, and even comforting preservation tool. It is commonly understood to be a procedure that can be used to predict the long-term stability of a material in a relatively short period of time through the use of heat under controlled conditions. It is believed to be a single, simple, and unfailingly accurate test that will pinpoint materials that are acceptable, and unacceptable, for preservation purposes. Many archivists and preservation professionals hold these views, and while they are not dangerous or even wholly inaccurate, they are simplistic and can lead to a misunderstanding about the meaning of and relationship among test results, conclusions, and recommendations.

As a result, Robert Feller's article should be required reading for all archives professionals concerned about the materials used to house and treat documents. It articulates the rationale behind accelerated aging tests, then delves into their conceptual and operational complexities by exploring elements of test design, execution, and interpretation. A rarity among the scientific literature, it is thorough, clear, and informative; presents examples that are relevant to the archives community; and can be readily understood by preservation administrators, conservators, and archivists alike.

— Karen Garlick, Senior Conservator, National Archives and Records Administration

— The article begins with a description of what factors should be considered when selecting properties to be monitored. Decisions such as which properties are to be tested, how to monitor the degree of change and establishing acceptable limits of change are explained. . . . Chemical changes are easier to define and measure than physical changes. Because chemical properties can be related to physical properties, however, chemical changes are currently considered acceptable indicators of the stability of materials.

Of particular interest to the preservation librarian are the two sections of the article regarding conditions for accelerated aging tests and problems of classification.

The selection of test conditions such as light sources, temperature and humidity will affect the outcome of the test. Standards for conditions to test photochemical deterioration have not been established. Ultimately, the conservation researcher chooses what is tested and how. Feller's discussion of light sources, temperature and relative humidity factors gives clear indication of how these decisions will affect the results and interpretation of the tests. In doing so, he emphasizes the need for standards for controls in testing procedures.

The explanation of classification, or relative ranking, as a standard for the life expectancy of materials is useful. The practical serviceability of materials falling into the intermediate Class B is difficult to ascertain, as is the practical difference between materials expected to last 200 years and those expected to last 400 years. The argument for a need to establish long-term testing is well taken.

— Kathlene Ferris, Curator of Manuscripts, Center for Southwest Research

***Final Report to the Office of Preservation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Grant # PS-20159-88, Preservation of Safety Film*, by James M. Reilly, Director; Peter Z. Adelstein, Consultant; and Douglas W. Nishimura, Scientist, Image Permanence Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, March 28, 1991.**

— This report, resulting from studies conducted by the Image Permanence Institute, offers several conclusions that are important for archivists to consider. Indeed, for many archival programs, the study conclusions may require a shift in approach to film preservation priorities. Among those conclusions are:

- The widely accepted belief among archivists that cellulose nitrate base film is less stable than safety cellulose esters is not supported by the study findings. It appears that some nitrate films may have as long a life as some of the safety films. "When stored under proper conditions, cellulose nitrate *can be* just as stable as cellulose triacetate." [18]. This fact calls into question the "automatic response" that the top priority for archival film preservation is to duplicate all nitrate film onto safety triacetate or polyester supports. The study team concludes, "Film archivists should give highest priority for duplication to that film which shows some incipient signs of degradation, regardless of base type." [25]
- The belief by many archivists that the "vinegar syndrome" [cellulose triacetate degradation with the accompanying generation of acetic acid] is characteristic only of older diacetate base films is not supported by the study findings. It is not known, at present, whether older diacetate base films are

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actually less stable than newer triacetate films. [4] [18]

■ Storage benefits must be weighed against increased installation and operating costs, and the benefits of storage conditions below 50% have never been established definitively. The study findings suggest that the magnitude of change warrants serious administrative consideration of providing a storage environment with a lower relative humidity. "When the relative humidity was lowered from 50% to 20%, the stability of the film increased by a factor ranging from 3 to 10 depending on the materials and physical property." [19]. The study authors conclude that the benefits are not marginal but substantive. "Archives should seriously consider reducing their storage humidity [for film] to relatively low levels. ***This represents a marked change in thinking.*** [23 — emphasis added]. The study findings indicate that the beneficial effects of low temperature and low relative humidity storage are additive and represent the optimum storage condition for cellulose ester base films.

■ The study findings reaffirm previous studies that suggest the superior chemical stability of polyester base films. It concludes that polyester base films have a predicted life in excess of 1,000 years at 20[DEGREES] C. and 50% RH storage conditions. None of the cellulose esters can match the superior stability of polyester base. [19].

— Howard Lowell, State Archivist & Records Administrator, Delaware

— 1. The first conclusion relates to the chemical stability of different cellulose ester base films; findings indicate that there is no inherent difference in the stabilities of diacetate, triacetate, or mixed esters contrary to a commonly held assumption that obsolete diacetate films are less stable than more recent films.

2. Cellulose nitrate film in storage will not necessarily degrade faster than other cellulose ester base films (there is still the safety factor to consider, however).

3. Decisions for duplication should not be based solely on base type, but on signs of degradation.

4. Polyester base films are of superior chemical stability.

5. Film life increases significantly when storage RH is lowered below 50%.

6. The use of cold storage facilities should be considered in order to prolong the chemical stability of valuable and unique photographic films.

7. A combination of low temperature and low RH represent the optimum storage condition for cellulose ester base films.

— Christine Ward, Chief, Bureau of Archival Services, New York State Archives

— Implications: For years, many institutions have given priority to copying nitrate films because of the common belief that they are very unstable — if not downright dangerous. It was also a common belief that diacetate films are less stable than the more modern triacetate. Libraries and archives that are able to provide good storage conditions might now reconsider the urgency of duplicating all of their nitrate film and instead give higher priority to monitoring all film collections and duplicating **any** film — whatever its type — if deterioration is evident.

Copying older motion picture film is a very costly process. For institutions able to provide lower humidity storage conditions and thus dramatically prolong the useful life of their films, this report should be very welcome news. Those with collections that are entirely on polyester film should have nothing to worry about for a long time to come.

The only negative consideration that occurs to me after reading this important report is the increased cost involved in maintaining film vaults at lower humidities — recently estimated for our institution to be several thousand dollars per year.

— Margaret Byrnes, Head, Preservation Section, National Library of Medicine

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The Commission on Preservation and Access

Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Newsletter

NUMBER 47 JULY 1992

Commission Recognized as Partner in EROMM Project

In a letter received in early June, the Bibliothèque Nationale has acknowledged the Commission as an official partner of the preparatory phase of the EROMM Project to set up a pilot machine-readable European Register of Microfilm Masters. The Commission is providing supplemental funds for the project, which has been established by the 12-member Commission of the European Communities (CEC) as part of a program dedicated to the libraries in Europe.

Hans Rütimann, Program Consultant for the International Project, attended EROMM's initial meeting in Luxembourg in December 1989, during which the feasibility study for such a register was reviewed. CEC is providing 60 percent of the total cost for the first year's operation (Phase 1). The Commission, through its Mellon Foundation grant for international activities, is providing support for the remaining 40 percent of the initial costs, or ECU's 67,960.

In the letter to the Commission, Jean-Marie Arnoult, Director of Technology at the Bibliothèque Nationale, writes:

(Commission translation): *On behalf of the partners, I would like to express the satisfaction of EROMM's Management Committee to be able to work with the Commission on Preservation and Access, not only in terms of financial assistance but also in terms of partnership. This partnership implies our acceptance of mutual differences no matter how restricting these may be at times. We know that we can consider you a staunch and attentive partner.*

As you know, the Bibliothèque Nationale takes its projects at the European level very seriously. The National Library well knows that in Europe — and beyond Europe in all matters of international cooperation — it is dealing not only with planning questions, abstract and technical, but also with libraries that have their own individual identities reflecting their particular interests and history. Our common goal, undertaken with reasonable optimism, is to unite these interests. . . .

The Bibliothèque Nationale considers partnerships between European libraries and North American libraries . . . a historical landmark that will contribute greatly to the concept of [a united] Europe. . . . EROMM constitutes only a small part of what is at stake. This new kind of partnership between Europe and North America will have unknown consequences for the libraries and their users. It is therefore essential that we move carefully into a political environment designed for the long term and not just for the benefit of the moment.

The EROMM contract calls for making available in a common database bibliographic information about preservation microfilms. Participating in the first phase of the CEC project are the British Library (England), the Bibliothèque Nationale (France), the Biblioteca Nacional (Portugal), and the Staats-und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (Germany).

The pilot phase is to take input from the four countries and create a UNIMARC-based file, expected to be compatible with the minimum data requirements for an international register of microform masters being developed cooperatively by several nations that attended a May 1990 Commission-sponsored meeting in Zurich.

Rockefeller Foundation Supports Scholars' Conference on Preserving the Intellectual Heritage

The interest of several of the Commission's Scholarly Advisory Committees regarding the need for preservation of intellectual resources in European libraries has led to a successful request for support from The Rockefeller Foundation for a conference at the Foundation's Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy. The June 1993 invitational conference will provide an international forum for scholars to participate in developing strategies to rescue library materials important to their disciplines.

In its proposal to the Foundation, the Commission pointed to the vital importance of scholarly involvement in the preservation process to develop strategies for setting selection priorities and choosing from a variety of alternative technologies for storage and dissemination of preserved materials. The first objective of the conference will be to share awareness and concern about the

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European Quarterly Reprints Commission Feasibility Study

A 41-page feasibility study of the means, costs, and benefits of converting large quantities of preserved library materials from microfilm to digital images originally published by the Commission has been reprinted in *European Research Libraries Cooperation (ERLC) The LIBER Quarterly*. "From Microfilm to Digital Imagery" was written by Donald J. Waters, Systems Office, Yale University Library, under contract to the Commission. In addition to identifying requirements for a major project to convert microfilmed texts to digital images, the study investigated intra- and inter-institutional access to the stored images and the broader implications for enhanced intellectual access to digitized scholarly materials.

The reprinted report is the lead article of Volume 1 (1991), No. 3 of *ERLC*, the Quarterly of the *Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER)*, which covers all aspects of research librarianship, with special attention given to library cooperation in Europe and to the comparative approach to librarianship. Copies of the original report remain available from the Commission for $5.00 (no charge for sponsors).

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The Commission on Preservation and Access was established in 1986 to foster and support collaboration among libraries and allied organizations in order to ensure the preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and to provide enhanced access to scholarly information.

The **Newsletter** reports on cooperative national and international preservation activities and is written primarily for university administrators and faculty, library and archives administrators, preservation specialists and administrators, and representatives of consortia, governmental bodies, and other groups sharing in the Commission's goals. The **Newsletter** is not copyrighted; its duplication and distribution are encouraged.

Patricia Battin, President; Maxine K. Sitts, Program Officer & Newsletter Editor. BITNET: SITTS@GWUVM. FAX (202) 939-3407.

Slow Fires Available in Spanish; Perhaps in Chinese?

The U.S. Information Agency has developed a Spanish-language voice-over translation of the one-hour version of *Slow Fires*, the award-winning documentary film on the preservation of the human record funded in 1987 by the Council on Library Resources, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The translated version is available in VHS in either NTSC or PAL formats from the American Film Foundation, Box 2000, Santa Monica, CA 90406, for the same price as the English version. Because of an increasing number of requests for the video in other languages, the Commission is pursuing grant support for additional translations, in particular a Chinese-language version.

Microfilming Handbook Provides Improved Guidance for Expanded Preservation Activities

A new manual of preservation microfilming guidelines for libraries and other cultural institutions engaged in the nationwide effort to preserve deteriorating materials has been published by the Research Libraries Group (RLG). The 204-page *RLG Preservation Microfilming Handbook* was developed by 18 preservation microfilming specialists representing libraries, commercial micropublishers, filming bureaus, and related organizations.

The handbook features detailed guidelines based on national and international standards for pre-filming, targeting, and filming of monographs, pamphlets, and serials. Packaged in spiral-binding with stiff covers, printed on alkaline paper, indexed and illustrated, and including a fold-out chart for identifying defects in camera negatives, the publication is a major contribution to both newcomers and veterans who are part of the expanding preservation agenda.

RLG also offers preservation microfilming workshops that assist institutions in implementing the guidelines. For more information about workshops, contact Nancy Elkington, The Research Libraries Group, Inc., 1200 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA 94041-1100. The *Preservation Microfilming Handbook* is available for $75.00, plus applicable sales tax and $5.00 for shipping and handling, from Distribution Services Center at the same address. It also is available from the American Library Association, Chicago, IL, and the Association for Information and Image Management, Silver Spring, MD.

Rockefeller Foundation Supports Conference

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problem among North American and European scholars. A second objective will be the initiation of a European-centered effort to collaborate with scholars in the U.S. while still addressing preservation issues that may be unique to some of the participating European countries.

A third objective will be the reinforcement of existing scholarly linkages between Europe and the U.S. in fields that depend heavily on the endangered literature on both continents. The three-day invitational meeting will bring together scholars, librarians, technology experts, and administrators or officials of scholarly agencies with direct concern with preservation problems.

New Commission Brochure Available

A new four-page brochure — printed on recycled, alkaline paper — provides a broad description of 1992-93 initiatives and a list of Commission board and staff members. The brochure is available in single and multiple quantities for use as handouts for displays and conferences. Also available are a newly formatted publication list as well as procedures for borrowing Commission exhibits. Please include a short description of the intended use for these materials with your request, and address the request to the Communications Program at the Commission.

Science Panel Reviews Research on Storage of Modern Vellum, Paper Strengthening and Deacidification

The following reviews are from a panel of librarians, archivists, and conservators convened by the Commission to report on research of interest to preservation administrators. The first report from the Getty Conservation Institute is a thorough piece of research on a very specific topic — the effects of relative humidity on modern vellum. The report contributes to understanding of both the material itself and its storage and is of particular interest regarding special collections of rare books. The second report by Donald Sebera of the Library of Congress — more theoretical in approach — asserts that combined strengthening and deacidification treatments can result in large synergistic increases in permanence of paper.

As part of its science initiative, the Commission is sponsoring an invitational workshop for preservation program managers in September 1992. Among the faculty are Sebera, James Druzik of the Getty Conservation Institute, and James Reilly of the Image Permanence Institute. The workshop, which focuses on the use of scientific research information in preservation decision-making, is being developed with the assistance of Peter G. Sparks.

***The Effects of Relative Humidity on Some Physical Properties of Modern Vellum: Implications for the Optimum Relative Humidity for the Display and Storage of Parchment*, by Eric F. Hansen, Steve N. Lee and Harry Sobel. Draft submitted January 1992 by the Getty Conservation Institute, 4503 Glencoe Avenue, Marina del Rey, CA 90292.**

— This study presents more detailed information than would be of use to most non-conservators, but the results of the study will have far-reaching possibilities for the preservation of documents created on parchment. Simply stated, the study finds that the current standard for the optimum level of relative humidity (50%) for the display and storage of skin materials is not conducive to long-term preservation. Tests were carried out on samples over the range of 11%-60% RH. The results indicate that relative humidities under 25% are "incompatible with long-term maintenance as are relative humidities above 40%, which increase hydrogen bond breakage, gelatinization and biological growth." An optimum level of 30% RH, with allowable cycling of +/-5% has been recommended on the basis of this study.

This paper reviews several implications for the storage of parchment at the suggested lower RH level that are important to consider before making any changes. Complications could occur because of the composite nature of a document (ink on surface of parchment, for instance, which might tend to flake in lower relative humidity). In addition, parchment that is brittle at lower RH levels and subject to manipulation (handling) may experience damage. Finally, lower RH levels could cause buckling or curling (not damaging, but aesthetically objectionable). In these cases, the authors suggest that the lowest safe level of RH be that which allows for mechanical requirements and considers other composite elements of the document and its aesthetic requirements.

This is very practical information, but its implementation may require the services of a conservator who can monitor the effects of the humidity on the documents. In any event, this study stresses that it is not only the physical property of the parchment that must be considered when determining the appropriate level of RH for its storage. Of consequence for those of us who have substantial holdings on parchment is the fact that those higher levels of RH for which we have been striving may not be in the long-term interest of the documents after all.

-Christine Ward, Chief, Bureau of Archival Services, New York State Archives

***The Effects of Strengthening and Deacidification on Paper Permanence: Some Fundamental Considerations*, by Donald K. Sebera, Chemist, Library of Congress. Draft submitted by author in late 1991.**

— Donald Sebera's draft paper provides a useful framework within which to examine the benefits of paper strengthening and paper deacidification, both separately and as complementary treatment procedures. Sebera poses a series of questions, the answers to which have not yet been explored well, e.g., "What is the minimum amount of strengthening which is useful and economically justifiable?" "How much is the permanence of . . . paper extended [by strengthening]?" and "What . . . are the relationships among paper strengthening, paper deacidification, and paper permanence?"

After defining terms, Sebera proceeds to develop several mathematical models for predicting, under different conditions, the permanence of papers that are initially acidic and have an initial fold endurance of 1,000 MIT double folds (an arbitrary but useful baseline). Graphs illustrate the anticipated effects of deacidifying paper at various points in its life span, and of strengthening paper in various ways at various points in its life span — both in relation to longevity. One especially instructive graph compares the effects of deacidification alone, strengthening alone, and deacidification and strengthening together, on the permanence of paper.

The relationships among alternative approaches to treatment are clearly articulated, and nine conclusions are reached. Some of the concluding observations are significant, for example, "Deacidification processes alone do little to increase the permanence of very weak papers," "Treatment parameters sufficient to achieve useful increases in permanence by strengthening alone are probably unattainable," and "Maximum permanence increases result when deacidification and strengthening procedures are carried out in combination." An appendix explains the mathematical procedures used to create the tables and graphs that appear throughout the text.

While some readers may have difficulty grasping the formulas and principles that undergird this paper, the premises assumed by and conclusions

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Science Panel Reviews

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drawn by the author are lucid. Of particular note for those interested in advancing the field of library and archives preservation is one closing remark, that "although the relationships developed follow from known behavior of paper and the assumptions and approximations made, it would be valuable to confirm them with experimental observations." The verification of Sebera's informed hypotheses in a laboratory setting could have a profound effect on local and interinstitutional preservation decision-making, as would further development of the paper deacidification and strengthening technologies that have begun to emerge in the marketplace. Support for the enhancement of existing research capabilities is critical.

—Jan Merrill-Oldham,
Preservation Librarian, University of Connecticut

University Training Stresses Preservation Sensitivity, Skills for Library, Custodial, Physical Plant Staff

A recently developed preservation orientation program at the University of California, San Diego, focuses on the major responsibilities of staff for the preservation of library materials and features practical steps that individuals can take to aid in protecting the library's collections. The university also has incorporated responsibility for preservation-sensitive handling of materials in all library staff job descriptions.

Julie Page, Preservation Librarian, and George Soete, Associate University Librarian for Collections, worked together in developing the orientation sessions as basic skills training focusing on print materials. The 1-½ sessions begin with data on the size, importance and worth of UCSD's collections. Staff are actively drawn into the training — they learn about the ways in which library materials suffer from both natural enemies (e.g., paper acidity) and human abuse (book drops), handle brittle paper and acid-free containers, examine moldy books, and see a hygrothermograph in action.

The sessions also have been given, in slightly modified form, for library custodians and the campus physical plant administrators. A session for campus police is planned for Fall 1992.

Page and Soete have found their team training to be particularly effective. They report that staff have demonstrated greater awareness of and commitment to preservation, for example by responding generously in a couple of minor disaster situations. Response of physical plant personnel also has improved dramatically, according to the trainers. Questions about the program can be directed to either Page or Soete at (619)534-1234.

—Adapted from an article submitted by George Soete

. . . Perhaps 90 percent of the research collections at the Eisenhower Library are printed on acidic paper, with a life-span of only 50 years, according to Scott Bennett [library director]. One-third of these (more than 600,000 volumes) are now so brittle they can't be circulated. . . . Bennett says that the greatest number *of books affected are acidic but not yet brittle. . . . The most* urgent *problem, however, lies with books that are already brittle. For these volumes, steps must be taken in the next few years, by microfilming, photocopying, or scanning into computer systems. The idea here is not to preserve the books — it's too late for that — but to preserve the information they contain.*

—"The Log-on Library," by Aaron Levin, in *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, February 1992, pp. 12-19

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Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Newsletter

Summertime Good News Edition

NUMBER 48 AUGUST 1992

Once again, the August Newsletter brings summertime good news. This year, it's progress with permanent paper and new support for preservation . . .

Recycled Products Increase Choices for Permanent Paper

The use of recycled materials in the production of paper, while not without some technical problems, is increasing steadily, providing consumers interested in preserving items of enduring value with a much wider choice of alkaline, long-lived papers. In a recent telephone interview, Tina Moylan, Product Control, Glatfelter Company, Spring Grove, PA, stated that her company's objective is to develop and make recycled papers that offer purchasers the same choices, qualities, and levels of permanence as non-recycled papers. Over the past year, 32 mills were manufacturing alkaline recycled paper, according to the July 1991 *Alkaline Paper Advocate* (Abbey Publications, Provo, UT). Of 130 types of paper meeting permanence standards, over 50 contained some percentage of recycled or postconsumer waste (November 1991 *Advocate*).

Technically, the requirements for recycled papers and for alkaline paper are generally compatible, as reported in the Summer 1991 *NAGARA Clearinghouse* (National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators) and most recently in the July 1992 *Advocate*. The Government Printing Office (GPO) believes that it is critical to clearly specify the minimum requirements for recycled paper regarding groundwood content, pH, and strength, and to monitor paper quality through a testing program. GPO's experience — which is extensive — has shown that the requirements for recovered materials content have only a very minor effect on its ability to purchase alkaline paper.

The impact of recycled materials on the longevity and endurance of paper is under study by paper chemists. During his presentation at the October 1991 Hearing on Permanent Paper Use Implementation at the National Library of Medicine, Dr. M. Bruce Lyne, Manager, Applied Surface Science, International Paper Company, Tuxedo, NY, expressed confidence in the paper industry's ability to adjust technologies to meet the needs of both the recycling and permanent paper initiatives. Lyne, chairman of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) Publications Committee, noted that research is underway on lignin — the substance in wood pulp that turns all paper brown and has been suspected of contributing to eventual brittleness [from audio transcript]:

There is a lot of ongoing research on how to get around the color reversion process. It is not entirely unthinkable that within the next five to ten years we are going to be able to make groundwood-containing papers that, first of all, do not color revert, and, secondarily, that are of adequate brightness and can be run in an alkaline medium. . . .

I might add that one of the things that held up the conversion to alkaline

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The Use of Permanent Paper for Biomedical Literature · The Acid-Free Paper Campaign at the National Library of Medicine

A fundamental responsibility of the National Library of Medicine is to preserve permanently the content of periodicals, books, and other library materials pertinent to the biomedical sciences. Significant resources have been provided by the U.S. Congress for the preservation of the national treasure of the Library's collection by microfilming of deteriorating documents, conservation in the original form of those that are rare and valuable, and research in the electronic storage of images.

A major threat to the survival of books and journals published since the mid-nineteenth century is the deterioration of paper caused by residual acids it contains. . . . Without expensive efforts at preservation, the majority of printed matter now on library shelves across the nation is destined to become brittle and to crumble over the period of a lifetime. NLM has not been immune to the problem. A senior NLM Preservation Planning Team surveyed the physical state of the holdings in 1985 in the course of the development of the NLM preservation plan. It identified

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Recycle

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papermaking is that you could not sell the waste paper early on from an alkaline operation because it could not be recycled into an acid system. . . . Today, because the industry has now converted due to economics primarily to alkaline papermaking, waste merchants have no problem buying alkaline paper and having it recycled into an alkaline paper mill. So that problem has really disappeared. . . .

The National Information Standards Organization is nearing completion of the revised American National Standard for permanent paper that may establish a one percent lignin limit. The adoption of the new standard will be helpful to the paper industry, according to Glatfelter's Moylan, since it will provide necessary guidelines for manufacturers and hold them accountable for quality. Knowledge about producing paper in an alkaline environment will continue to evolve, however, and standards may well change in the future. Meanwhile, the current working alliances among the paper industry, libraries, archives, and publishers, along with the active involvement of organizations such as the American Library Association, the National Library of Medicine, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Association of American Publishers, are creating a positive environment for improvement and expanded choices for permanent, recycled papers.

Together with these organizations, the Commission remains a strong advocate of the use of acid-free paper for items of enduring value, supporting the consideration of preservation needs as new standards and products are developed. The Board has affirmed its commitment to this objective, and has encouraged the extension of this advocacy to create a wider international awareness of the need for the use of permanent paper for materials of enduring value.

For more information, see:

Alkaline Paper Advocate. Abbey Publications, 320 E. Center St., Provo, UT 84606. Many back issues contain extensive background information regarding technologies and availability of alkaline and recycled papers.

Commission on Preservation and Access Newsletter. Several back issues contain articles on permanent paper initiatives. Most recently, see "Agreement on International Standard for Permanent Paper," June 1992, p.1.

"The Environmental Impact of Science Publishing: Global Issues," and "Close to Home: What Can CBE Members Do to Minimize the Environmental Impact of Publishing?" in *CBE Views*, V.15, n.1, 1992. Reports from the Annual Meeting - 1991 of the Council of Biology Editors.

Recycled Printing & Writing Papers: Products & Manufacturers, Winter 1992 edition. Available from Center for Earth Resource Management Applications, 5528 Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151. $25.00.

Recycled Papers, The Essential Guide by Claudia G. Thompson, 1992. Available from MIT Press, 55 Hayward St., Cambridge, MA 02142. $25.00 ($2.50 postage) paperback.

Report to Congress on the Joint Resolution to Establish a National Policy on Permanent Papers, submitted to the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives by the Librarian of Congress, the Archivist of the United States, and the Public Printer, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 101-423.

Use of Alkaline Paper in Government Printing, Report and Plan Prepared at the Direction of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, April 1990. U.S. Government Printing Office.

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Patricia Battin, President; Maxine K. Sitts, Program Officer & Newsletter Editor. BITNET: SITTS@GWUVM. FAX (202) 939-3407.

Summer Reading Suggestions

"Upgrading Campus Libraries for New Technologies," in *Facilities Manager*, the official publication of The Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers (Alexandria, VA), V.8, n.2, Spring 1992. "Most facilities professionals realize that the nature of libraries is changing rapidly, due to two key areas: the deterioration of books and the explosion of digital technology."

Caring for Your Collections: Preserving and Protecting Your Art and Other Collectibles, by the National Committee to Save America's Cultural Collections, introduction by The Honorable Robert McCormick Adams, foreword by Arthur W. Schultz, April 1992. Formally introduced at a White House tea hosted by First Lady Barbara Bush, this 208-page (118 illustrations) hardbound volume was assembled as "the first comprehensive, practical care guide aimed at the average person who collects." Books, manuscripts, and works on paper are included along with many other materials; information about basic environmental guidelines and security is included. Available for $37.50 from Abrams Publishers, 100 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011.

Using the Nation's Documentary Heritage, the Report of the Historical Documents Study supported by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) in cooperation with the American Council of Learned Societies, 1992. In a survey of nearly 1400 members of historical and genealogical societies, this study found lively interest in and strong demand for access to sources on the past. "Average citizens and professionals alike find an invaluable approach to understanding their society through the study of history. Because knowledge of the past improves the formulation of intelligent public policy, the whole nation gains from public support for use of the historical record." Copies of the 112-page report are available from Historical Documents Study Report, NHPRC (NP), National Archives Building, Washington, DC 20408.

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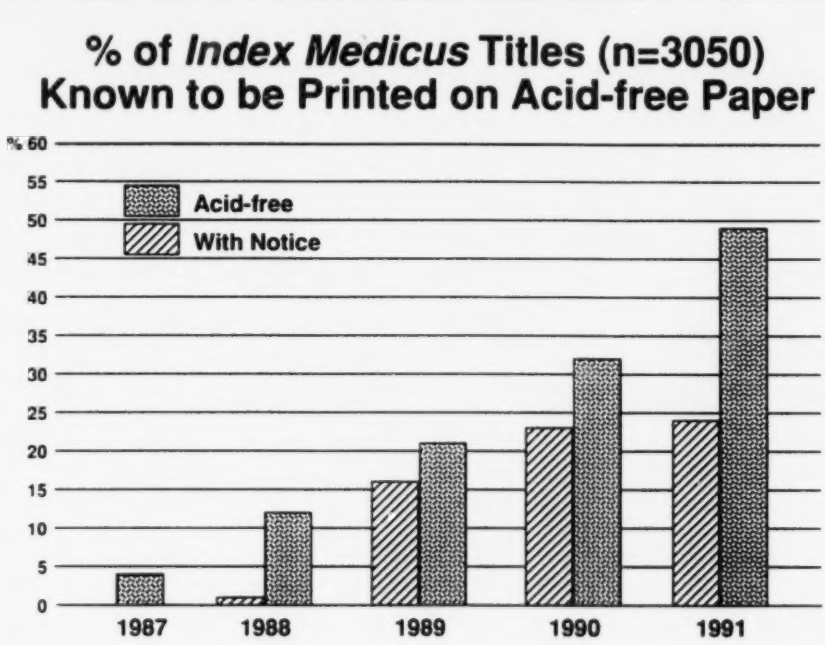
some 158,000 volumes, over 12% of the collection, as having become so brittle that they would not be able to withstand one more library use, and estimated that another 5,000 volumes would be entering that endangered category annually.

More recently, paper making processes that employ alkaline rather than acid-based chemistry have begun to come into use. Alkaline paper making is an industrial process utilized for the manufacture of a variety of kinds of paper, including products for commercial and industrial consumption. Paper so produced is acid-free and available in commercial quantities and at competitive prices in most paper grades. Acid-free, permanent paper will last for centuries rather than decades in ordinary library use.

It is not responsible to publish important material on acidic paper when it is known that its fate is to self-destruct. It is also inefficient and illogical to continue to apply costly, labor intensive remedial preservation measures to perishable volumes when much of the preservation problem can be prevented. The preservation policy of the Library's Board of Regents adopted in February 1986 notes that much of the preservation problem can be stopped at its source by publishing on permanent, archival media that are not predisposed to rapid deterioration, such as acid-free paper. It also states that in order to lessen the need for preservation treatment of new publications, the National Library of Medicine shall actively encourage the publishing industry to use more permanent paper in the production of biomedical literature.

To that end, The Board of Regents sponsored a hearing at the Library in January 1987 on the use of permanent paper for biomedical literature. As a result of the hearing, an NLM Permanent Paper Task Force of academic, commercial, and professional society publishers, editors, authors, paper manufacturers and distributors, printers, librarians, preservationists, and concerned citizens was established. It was charged with exploring the problem of paper deterioration, the economics, aesthetics, and the manufacturing technologies of acid-free paper, and fostering positive action in its use, particularly in journals, the most important repository of contemporary biomedical knowledge. . . .



The Library's campaign to encourage biomedical publishers to issue their works on acid-free, permanent paper has made encouraging progress. In 1987, merely four percent of the 3,000 journals indexed by NLM were acknowledged by their publishers to be using acid-free paper. In 1991, one-half are on permanent paper. Of the United States journals indexed, four-fifths are now acid-free. Beginning in 1990, journals indexed in MEDLINE and *Index Medicus* that are printed on acid-free paper and that also carry a notice to that effect are marked as such in the *List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus*, the *List of Serials Indexed for Online Users*, and in SERLINE, the Library's online file of serials information. (It is important that the use of permanent paper for a publication be identified by a notice in that publication. Without it, preservation treatments may in the future be inadvertently applied to publications that do not need them. Such identification also attests to the concern for the preservation of the material that is published).

The campaign to encourage domestic publishers in permanent paper use continues, with intensified efforts to bring the message of paper permanence to offshore publications. Together with increasing expressed demand by users, the advantages of the economics and technology of alkaline paper making are also becoming reflected in the paper market. The alkaline paper making process results in reduced water consumption, facilitates waste treatment and compliance with environmental controls, saves energy and materials costs, and is cleaner and, on balance, less corrosive to machinery than acid-based paper making.

The use of acid-free paper is the preventive medicine for reducing the problem of deterioration of publications and the threat of their being lost to the record of civilization forever.

— Excerpted from Appendix B of *Report to Congress on the Joint Resolution to Establish a National Policy on Permanent Papers (Public Law 101-423)* provided by the National Library of Medicine

New Support for Preservation

Despite economic stalemates, support for preservation continues.

— The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), Philadelphia, PA, recently announced the receipt of two grants for preservation and conservation activities. The Graham Foundation provided CCAHA with an $8,000 grant for ongoing research on the fabrication and preservation of American architectural drawings produced before 1930. Previous research on this project has been supported by the Peterson Fund of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia and the Institute for Museum Services. The research will culminate in a monograph for archivists, curators and conservators.

The Knight Foundation provided CCAHA with a $25,000 grant for an endowment fund for conservation training, graduate fellowships, staff development, research, and publications. A total grant of $100,000 was approved for a four-partner proposal and equally divided among CCAHA, Balboa Art Conservation Center (San Diego, CA), Intermuseum Conservation Association (Oberlin, OH), and Upper Midwest Conservation Association (Minneapolis, MN). The four centers are part of the Association of Regional Conservation Centers, a larger consortium that received a major challenge grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

— After responding to 4,800 requests for *Report No. 1*, the Arthur Salm Foundation has released *Report No. 2* in its series of tests on the chemical properties of philatelic material. *Report No. 2* covers a variety of items made of paper, including 55 album pages, stock books, and the paper portion of mounts and glassine envelopes. The Salm Foundation has offered to test philatelic products as part of an arrangement with the International Federation of Philately (FIP). This is being done at no cost to FIP; the Foundation pays all expenses. In its report, the Foundation presents test data but does not make recommendations about which products to buy. *Report No. 2* is available at no charge for a legal size SAE from the Arthur Salm Foundation, 1029 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610. *Report No. 1* is available, while supplies last, for $1, plus a legal size SAE.

— The South Carolina State Library has launched an 18-month preservation education project designed to raise the awareness of both librarians and the public about the importance of preserving library and local history materials. The State Library has awarded a grant to the Charleston Museum to develop the project, which will encompass a series of workshops, town meetings, and site-surveys aimed at audiences including library directors, trustees, friends groups, and the public. The grant for the project is being funded under LSCA Title III, which now identifies preservation as a priority. It will be administered by the South Carolina Library Network.

Preservation Managers Council Named

As part of its continuing review of governance structure and communication mechanisms, the Commission's Board voted at its April 1992 meeting to establish a Preservation Managers Council in order to provide a more effective forum for the contributions of managers of large preservation programs to the Commission's activities. The council, representing an important component of a comprehensive international preservation effort, will be charged with contributing its special expertise and operational experience to the broader issues addressed by the Commission.

Accepting membership on the council are: **Margaret Byrnes**, Head, Preservation Section, National Library of Medicine; **Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa**, Preservation Officer, University of Texas, Austin; **Richard Frieder**, Head, Preservation Department, Northwestern University; **Kenneth Harris**, Director for Preservation, Library of Congress; **Carolyn Clark Morrow**, Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian, Harvard University; **Barclay Ogden**, Head, Conservation Department, University of California, Berkeley; and **Christine Ward**, Chief, Bureau of Archival Services, New York State Archives and Records Administration. An organizational meeting is being planned for this fall.

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The Commission on Preservation and Access

Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Newsletter

NUMBER 49 SEPTEMBER 1992

Fifty Sponsors Pledge Support to Commission

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Fifty higher education organizations have made pledges to support the work of the Commission on Preservation and Access over the next three years. In announcing the sponsors as of September 1, 1992, Chairman Billy E. Frye stated:

The Board of the Commission on Preservation and Access is most grateful for the commitments from these 50 higher education institutions. Such sponsorship is absolutely essential if we are to continue to provide the types of programs and products that we have developed and made freely available to the higher education community over the past five years. We are all too aware of the difficult financial pressures facing institutions of higher education and the painful necessity to balance short-term local needs and long-term, cooperative objectives. We appreciate such willingness to commit scarce resources to our cooperative effort to transmit our intellectual heritage to those who follow us.

When founded in 1986, the Commission was sponsored by nine institutions; in the most recent three-year period, ending June 30, the number of sponsors rose to 34. Sponsors receive expedited mailings of Commission newsletters, reports, and publications, as well as additional complimentary copies of materials upon request. They also are entitled to use the Commission's preservation exhibits with no service charge.

Chinese Version of **Slow Fires** Receives Grant

Slow Fires, the film/video documentary on the preservation of the human record produced in 1986 and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress, and the Council on Library Resources, has received a grant of up to $10,000 from the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia toward the production of a Chinese version. The Commission, which has been advocating the use of the film internationally, is seeking additional funds from both U.S. and Chinese sources for the translation and production effort.

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Preservation Statistics for Research Libraries Confirm Growth in Spending, Activities

The 1990-91 Preservation Statistics recently issued by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) confirm the continuing growth in preservation expenditures, staffing, and activities on the part of the largest research libraries in the U.S. and Canada. Preservation expenditures for the 117 reporting ARL libraries were over $71 million in 1990-91. Increasingly, funds from external sources are augmenting institutional resources, and a significant portion of preservation budgets comes from grants.

The data also underscore the impact of the brittle books program.

The data offer persuasive evidence that preservation programs are becoming a standard unit in research libraries: 90 institutions indicate they have appointed a preservation administrator—55 full-time and 35 part-time.

The data also underscore the impact of the brittle books program. During the past year, ARL libraries microfilmed approximately 123,233 volumes, an increase of more than 31,000 volumes over 1989-90 preservation microfilming production. The *1990-91 ARL Preservation Statistics* is available from ARL, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036 for $20.00 to ARL members and $60.00 to non-members; prepaid required.

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The Commission on Preservation and Access was established in 1986 to foster and support collaboration among libraries and allied organizations in order to ensure the preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and to provide enhanced access to scholarly information.

The newsletter reports on cooperative national and international activities and is directed to university administrators, scholars, and faculty; preservation specialists and managers; and members of consortia, governmental bodies, and other groups sharing in the Commission's goals. The newsletter is not copyrighted. Its duplication is encouraged.

Patricia Battin - President; Maxine K. Sitts, Program Officer & Newsletter Editor.
EMail Address: SITTS@GWUVM.BITNET
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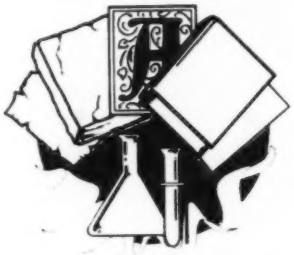
Mass Deacidification Study Available to Libraries, Archives, Historical Societies



A 175-page report on the organization, operation, and chemistry of mass deacidification activities has been released by the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), an academic consortium that fosters communication and collaboration among 12 major research universities. *Mass Deacidification: A Report to the Library Directors* was developed to help CIC library administrators position their units for action on mass deacidification. Although the report is not meant to suggest a course of action to institutions outside the CIC, it contains information that will be of interest to others considering mass deacidification needs. Copies of the report are available for $15 from: CIC, 302 East John Street, Suite 1705, Champaign, IL 61820.

CIC members are the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, Indiana University, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Preserving Information in Electronic Form

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) recently released a study entitled *The Archives of the Future: Archival Strategies for the Treatment of Electronic Databases.* The NAPA study and ensuing report, which was prepared at the request of the National Archives, addresses the concerns of historians, archivists, and researchers about preserving government information that is created, maintained, and used in electronic form. The objectives of the study were to identify the major electronic databases in Federal agencies and to develop criteria to appraise databases to determine which ones to transfer to the National Archives for permanent retention.

Among its 13 recommendations, NAPA urged the National Archives to take a strategic, active approach in pursuing electronic data from agencies; to place greater emphasis on developing guidelines and agreements with agencies to ensure provision of data in a usable form; and to develop a long-term strategy for accessibility of electronic databases that incorporates providing networked access to the data and textual databases held by the National Archives.

The report is available for $10.00 plus $3.00 shipping from National Academy of Public Administration, 1120 G St., Suite 850, Washington, DC 20005.

. . . as we put certain key American collections into electronic formats, we are substituting technology for paper. . . . The Library of Congress already holds over 8 million items — newspapers, manuscripts, journals, documents — in microform. . . . In due course, microforms will surely give way to digital storage. . . .

Address before the Information Industry Association, Washington, DC, May 18,
Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress,
LC Information Bulletin, June 15, 1992

SPECIAL REPORT

Research on the Use of Color Microfilm

Research projects sponsored by The Getty Grant Program on the suitability of color microfilm for preservation have submitted final reports after two years of investigation and experimentation (see January 1992 and May 1992 newsletters). The research is closely related to the work of the Joint Task Force on Text and Image, also sponsored by The Getty Grant Program, whose final report, *Preserving the Illustrated Text*, was published by the Commission in May 1992. The Commission contracted with the Image Permanence Institute (IPI) and MAPS The MicrogrAphic Preservation Service, Inc., to conduct research and demonstration projects to aid the field of art history in establishing a comprehensive approach to preservation. The substantive content of the final reports follows, since the Commission will not be distributing the complete reports. Information on specific aspects of the research is available from James Reilly, IPI, Rochester Institute of Technology, Frank E. Gannett Memorial Bldg., P.O. Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623-0887 and Lee Jones, MAPS, Nine S. Commerce Way, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

IPI: Color Microfilm Dark Stability

Project Summary

The project "Permanence of Color Microforms for Library Preservation" was a two-year study to explore the comparative dye stabilities of chromogenic and silver dye bleach (SDB) microforms. In addition to dye fading, the physical properties of the gelatin emulsions and film supports were also studied. The permanence of color microforms is a concern in the library community because a large segment of embrittled library material cannot be adequately preserved by simple black-and-white microfilming. For any original book, map, art reproduction or manuscript in which color is an integral part of the information content, there must be a way to preserve the color component of the image.

Although manufacturers of both SDB and chromogenic film provide dye stability information for their products, this project is the first that integrates an examination of dye, gelatin and film support stabilities. For most of the measured properties it was possible to use a mathematical model known as the Arrhenius Relationship to predict the behavior of dyes, gelation emulsions and plastic supports under typical storage conditions.

Incubations were carried out at both 50% and 15% RH in order to determine the humidity sensitivity of the various microfilms. It is generally known that lower humidity will benefit the life of dyes, gelatin and plastic supports, but the degree of benefit is less know.

Materials tested in this project proved to be surprisingly stable. As a result, although the basic requirements of the project were met, data collection is expected to continue for several more years.

Key Project Results

1. Color microfilming is a viable preservation method. Even at room temperature, it is possible to preserve master color microform images as long as 100 years.

2. Overall, at room temperature and moderate RH conditions, Cibachrome SDB films exhibit superior permanence to chromogenic microfilms.

3. In the accelerated aging studies, films sealed in bags had a shorter life than films free-hung in the chambers. This is likely due to harmful degradation byproducts being trapped in the sealed bags and accelerating deterioration. Unfortunately, the bagged film tends to reflect more closely how film is stored in real life than open, free-hung film does.

4. Insufficient data is available to make predictions regarding the dark stability of Cibachrome dyes. However, one could reasonably expect two to three centuries to pass before significant dye fading occurs under room temperature and moderate RH storage conditions.

5. The dark stability of Cibachrome dyes is far superior to chromogenic dyes.

6. While the polyester support of Cibachrome films may not be as stable as some other polyester bases, it is still at least as stable as triacetate.

7. Predictions for the future physical properties of Cibachrome film gelatin emulsions were notably shorter than for chromogenic film emulsions. However, Cibachrome emulsions can be expected to remain in usable condition for at least 200 years at room temperature and moderate RH conditions.

Table 1
Summary of Dye Stability Properties

Film Type	Time in years for 30% Loss of Least Stable Dye	Least Stable Dye
Cibachrome CMM	200 - 300 (estimated)	-
Cibachrome CMP	200 - 300 (estimated)	-
Eastman 5243	25	Cyan
Eastman 5272	25	Cyan
Eastman 5384	40	Yellow

Dye predictions made at 24°C in accordance with ANSI IT9.9-1990

Table 1 shows the predicted or estimated time in years before each microfilm loses 30% of its most fugitive dye at room temperature and 50% RH. Which of the three dyes (cyan, magenta, or yellow) is the least stable dye is indicated. The Cibachrome film did not reach the desired 30% dye loss, thus values for these films have been estimated and the least stable dye could not be predicted.

Table 2
Summary of Emulsion Mushiness Properties

Film Type	Years to Reach 50 Gram Mushiness
Cibachrome CMM	100
Cibachrome CMP	100
Eastman 5243	500
Eastman 5272	500
Eastman 5384	800

Mushiness predictions made at 20°C

Table II contains predictions in years for the gelatin emulsion on each of the films to reach a mushiness value of 50 grams if stored at room temperature and 50% RH. (Mushiness is a measure of how much load must be applied to a 0.007 inch sapphire stylus to break though a wet gelatin emulsion.) Fifty grams does not necessarily represent the point at which the film is no longer useable; it is a very conservative minimum estimate of the useful life.

Table 3
Summary of Break Stress Properties

Film Type	Years to Reach a 66% Retention of Break Stress
Cibachrome CMM	250
Cibachrome CMP	200
Eastman 5243	250
Eastman 5272	250
Eastman 5384	250

Break stress predictions made at 20°C

Table III lists the predicted number of years required for the tensile break stress of the plastic support to decrease by 33% when stored at room temperature and 50% RH. (Tensile break stress is a measure of how much force is required to break a sample of plastic film base under controlled conditions.) Such a large physical property change is an indication of serious chemical breakdown of the plastic support; however, film which retains 66% of its original tensile break stress may still be useable in practice.

General Conclusions

1. Under cold storage either chromogenic or SDB color materials can be kept for many centuries. Thus, with cold storage, either type of color microfilm can be considered "permanent".

2. With respect to the stability of image dyes, gelatin and film support, if storage conditions are likely to be at room temperature and moderate RH, there is little doubt that Cibachrome microfilm is a significantly better choice than chromogenic film. Collections using color microfilm will also have to weigh other factors before making their selection of film. With respect to sensitometry, Cibachrome film is slower and has higher contrast making it somewhat more difficult to work with. Local environmental laws may make processing Cibachrome film difficult. Finally, in the case of service and use copies of film, handling damage may nullify any longevity benefit gained by using Cibachrome. All of these problems can be dealt with in different ways and may not be problems at all.

MAPS: Color Microfilm and Continuous Tone Processing

The two parts of this contract had widely different results, but both contributed information to our understanding of the issues involved. . . .

Continuous Tone Processing (CTP)

The contract was awarded just as MAPS was taking delivery on its first Herrmann & Kraemer 16/35mm computer controlled camera . . . while the frustrations of the continuous tone processing project, detailed below, were being experienced, startlingly good results were achieved using the Herrmann and Kraemer (H&K) camera and Kodak AHU camera film on continuous tone materials. The prospects are that these results can be further improved if either a CTP technology can be implemented or a special film for continuous tone material can be found. . .

The original intent was to purchase a license from H&K and to receive instruction in implementing the process in our processing laboratory. Just as negotiations were about to be concluded with H&K, that company received several very large contracts for other work . . . subsequent discussions with H&K led us to begin testing an alternate route to successful filming of continuous tone materials. It turns out that H&K uses its own CTP technology only in the most difficult cases, cases where the subject material has a very narrow tonal range and very low contrast. They have explored the use of duplicating films as original camera films. While MAPS' efforts in this area have taken place outside of the current contract, the activity should be of interest to the Commission, the Getty Grant Program, and others interested in capture of black and white continuous tone material for preservation purposes.

Initial tests were frustrating indeed, since no images at all were captured using Kodak duplicating film in exposure ranges thought to be sufficient. . . . In order to expose duplicating film in a microfilm camera, 80 times more light must reach the film. This means that either one must increase exposure by 80 times, increase the intensity of light by 80 times, or, and more reasonably, provide the added exposure by a combination of more intense light and longer exposure times. These requirements mean that only cameras capable of adjustable exposure times and alternate light sources are capable of using duplicating film as a continuous tone filming medium. Testing is still at a very early stage, but already results are promising. There is a clear improvement in capture of continuous tone values using duplicating films as opposed to results using conventional AHU camera films. MAPS will continue testing this strategy and will be pleased to share its progress with those interested.

Thus, while making no progress on the originally proposed project, definite strides have been made in the development of a way to capture continuous tone materials with much improved fidelity on films that will qualify as preservation films.

Preservation Color Microfilming

The purpose of the preservation color microfilming project was to learn how to use Cibachrome (now Ilfochrome) in the Herrmann & Kraemer camera in order to offer a preservation quality color microfilm option to the preservation community. . . .

Because there was no prospect of getting into a high volume color microfilm environment, all processing was done on contract with Microcolor International. . . . The first stage of testing involved understanding how to achieve good results on the grey scale technical target and simultaneously good color balance. Filter materials had to be acquired and tested in order to learn the effects of various filter packs on the resulting film images. . . .

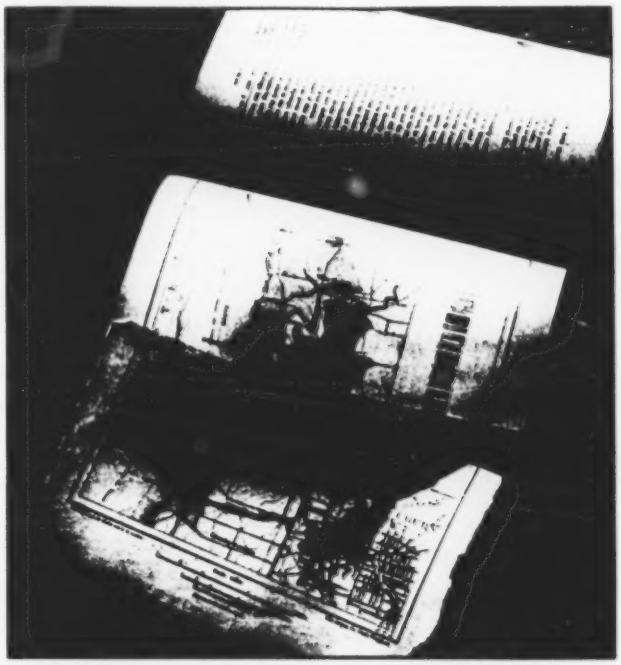
One of the more disappointing client tests involved material from an art and architecture collection. After several attempts to achieve faithful reproduction colors, it was agreed that the test was worthy of inspection by the owning library. Their evaluation was that what we perceived as consistent with the original material was, from their perspective, not 100% faithful. . . .

Other color test projects included a newspaper's color prints which, admittedly, are never very good. The client was more satisfied since MAPS produced images that were perceived to be close approximations of the original colors.

It is our view that color microfilming for preservation purposes still has a future. However, that future for the art community may include marrying color microfilm with color digitizing equipment in order to allow the client to achieve the color balance that meets their requirements. . . .

MAPS has not abandoned color microfilm for preservation purposes, but has scaled back its expectation of the role this format may play in preservation projects without some very sophisticated post processing technology.

It is expected that some communities will be less concerned with absolute color fidelity replication than they are with color distinction. Geographers and cartographers come to mind.



From *Preserving the Illustrated Text, Report of the Joint Task Force on Text and Image*. Available from the Commission on Preservation and Access.

In preservation color microfilming, the fact that one is recording a copy of an image or artifact on an entirely different medium underscores the literal impossibility of capturing all of the color nuances of the original. . . .

In one project, MAPS discovered (certainly not for the first time) that high quality black and white duplicates can be made from Cibachrome original film. In the process of doing so, it was also noted that the thicker and softer emulsion created more opportunity to scratch the original being duplicated.

NEH Awards $18.7 Million in Preservation and Access Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has announced 54 new grants totaling $18.7 million that will help libraries, museums, and other institutions across the country preserve endangered materials. The largest of the grants, $2.39 million, went to a collaborative effort to microfilm more than 28,000 brittle volumes from 15 libraries. The Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), in conjunction with the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, will coordinate the microfilming of more than 28,000 volumes on North American, Latin American, and African history and culture.

The largest of the grants, $2.39 million, went to a collaborative effort to microfilm more than 28,000 brittle volumes from 15 libraries.

Also within the brittle books program, a grant of $194,000 will allow the New York State Historical Society to stabilize and increase public access to a unique collection of 20,000 American maps that document western expansion from the 17th century to the present.

The grants were made by the Endowment's Division of Preservation and Access, which provides support to microfilm deteriorating publications, stabilize material culture collections, increase access to collections, and provide preservation training for staff.

Rebecca Kelly New Communications Assistant

Rebecca Kelly, a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, has been appointed to replace Patricia Cece as Communications Assistant. While at the University of Maryland, Ms. Kelly worked at the College of Library and Information Services and the Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship in the College of Business and Management. Her work experience in the academic world includes communications and public relations. She has a degree in English and hopes to pursue a Master's degree in the same area.

As Communications Assistant, Ms. Kelly is responsible for maintaining the Commission's newsletter subscriptions and mailing lists. She also handles requests for publications and loans of exhibits and *Slow Fires* videos. Sponsors of the Commission can contact her to request additional complimentary copies of publications and reports.

LC Holds Conference on Preservation Research and Development

The Library of Congress' Preservation Directorate is holding a small invitational conference on library preservation research and development late this month. Invited research and library managers will present papers describing their programs and will participate in roundtable discussions to identify common interests and clarify preservation research needs and priorities. The Directorate expects to publish the proceedings. The need for the conference evolved from a meeting of preservation and collection development officers and library administrators convened to foster the development of a national preservation program. The University of Chicago and the Association of Research Libraries jointly sponsored the meeting, which was held in Chicago.

. . . but for the growing concern generated in the seventies in the United States . . . the world-wide action to stimulate preservation awareness and restore it to its place in library administration might still be a matter for the future. . . . . . The preservation movement has achieved an international momentum which must be maintained if the brittle book syndrome is not to blot out substantial periods of the world's cultural history.

—"Preservation: A Bitter Harvest," by Frederick W. Ratcliffe, Cambridge University Library, in *Cadernos de Biblioteconomia, Arquivística e Documentação*, Lisbon, Portugal (2) 1991, pp.7-18

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The Commission on Preservation and Access

Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Newsletter

NUMBER 50 OCTOBER 1992

Cornell, Yale Advance with Digital Technologies

Cornell and Yale Universities have released reports on their explorations of the interinstitutional use of digital technologies to preserve and enhance access to deteriorating scholarly works of national and international importance. The two reports describe work conducted under contract to the Commission as part of an initial phase of an evolving digital preservation consortium.

Participation convinced Cornell of the value of digital technology to preserve and make available research library material.

The Cornell report on Phase I (January 1990 - December 1991) of the university's Joint Study in Digital Preservation — Digital Capture, Paper Facsimiles, and Network Access describes the collaborative efforts of Cornell and the Xerox Corporation to capture the contents of 1,000 brittle books as digital images and to produce printed paper facsimiles. Of equal interest is the role of digital technology in providing networked access to library resources. Participation in the joint study convinced Cornell of the value of digital technology to preserve and make available research library material. Principal conclusions are:

1. Digital image technology provides an alternative — of comparable quality and lower cost — to photocopying for preserving deteriorating library materials.

2. Subject to the resolution of certain problems, digital scanning technology offers a cost effective adjunct or alternative to microfilm preservation.

3. Digital technology has the potential to enhance access to library materials.

4. Through the implementation of document control structures, digital technology offers a means to facilitate access and to provide links between the library catalog and the material itself.

5. The infrastructure developed for library preservation and access activities supports other applications in the electronic dissemination of information.

Yale's new report narrates the organizational phase of Project Open Book, the university's effort to convert 10,000 volumes in microfilm format into digital image form and to explore the effects of scale on emerging preservation imaging systems. The master plan for this project was first detailed in the June 1991 report, *From Microfilm to Digital Imagery*. In the organizational phase, Yale has established the internal project team and steering committee; identified the required hardware, software, services and staff; established costs and developed a budget; and selected a vendor partner. Two remaining objectives are to identify criteria for selecting the materials for conversion and to raise the necessary funds to support subsequent project phases. The report concludes:

Yale recognizes the need to find collaborative ways to address . . . the use of digital image technology.

Continued on p. 2

Using Scientific Information for Preservation Decisions

The Science Workshop for Preservation Administrators sponsored last month by the Commission provided opportunities for librarians, archivists and scientists to explore jointly how scientific research can be obtained, interpreted, and applied to solve critical preservation issues. The 2-½ day event included lectures on the general theory of scientific research, as well as team exercises in problem-solving and decision-making focused on specific preservation problems. The workshop was the first of a planned series to develop cooperative approaches for setting prioritized research agendas.

An opening session examined in detail the principles of designing a scientific research program around a preservation concern, with emphasis on defining the problem, understanding the experimental approach, analyzing data, interpreting results, and reaching conclusions. A panel session on the process of buying research introduced crucial non-scientific elements such as contracts, principal investigators, obligations of parties, deliverables, costs, ownership of intellectual properties, and contingencies.

The science faculty and preservation managers met in small groups to discuss such questions as "Why can't I get a straight answer from scientific research?" "How can R&D results be used to make decisions?" and "How can risk management be used in these decisions?" A seminar explored how scientific laboratories choose their research projects, identifying differences between the strategies of large and

Continued on p. 2

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Microfilming Internship for the Deutsche Bibliothek Advances International Collaboration

The Commission Board has approved a contract with the MicrogrAphic Preservation Service (MAPS) to conduct an 11-week internship program in the management of preservation microfilming operations this fall for staff of the Deutsche Bücherei, Leipzig, Germany. Explorations regarding training needs in that country were initiated before its unification. The Deutsche Bibliothek holds historic German collections that have received little attention over the past 40 years.

The contract, supported with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, provides for the training at MAPS of three Deutsche Bücherei staff members who are expected to become the supervising cadre of a new large-scale preservation microfilming unit, and for advice on the equipment, space, and utility resources needed for the facility. The training program is scheduled to coincide with the acquisition of the first camera at the Deutsche Bücherei.

Instruction will cover processing, duplication, special film treatments, quality assurance of second and third generation film, and diazo training and quality assurance. In the technical area, MAPS will provide training in equipment maintenance and repair. In the operational area, trainees will gain hands-on experience working with MAPS micrographic technicians who will serve as mentors. MAPS staff will follow up with a week's consultation three months after the German staff has returned to work in their own laboratory.

In Germany, it is estimated that 70 to 80 percent of the collections are threatened and 12 to 16 percent are already brittle. The country is undertaking a large-scale effort to address the problem. In addition to microfilming projects, the German Research Council is financing work toward a national preservation strategy and the German Library Institute has recently published *Microfilms in Research Libraries* (*Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut, Mikroformen in Wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken Eine Studie im Auftrag der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft*; Berlin, 1991), the results of a two-year study that takes stock of what has been done and what should be done in microfilming.

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The Commission on Preservation and Access was established in 1986 to foster and support collaboration among libraries and allied organizations in order to ensure the preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and to provide enhanced access to scholarly information.

The newsletter reports on cooperative national and international activities and is directed to university administrators, scholars, and faculty; preservation specialists and managers; and members of consortia, governmental bodies, and other groups sharing in the Commission's goals. The newsletter is not copyrighted. Its duplication is encouraged.

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Maxine K. Sitts · Program Officer & Newsletter Editor.
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Cornell & Yale

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As work proceeds to the next phases in Project Open Book, Yale recognizes the need in the library community to find collaborative ways to address the key issues raised by the use of digital image technology. In particular, it needs to build a technical and organizational infrastructure of equipment, software, networks, and knowledgeable users and staff that spans multiple campuses and facilitates the reliable and cost-effective interchange of image documents.

• • •

These digital preservation projects are being conducted under contract to the Commission with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which also is supporting distribution of the new reports to the Commission's mailing list. Additional copies are available while supplies last, with prepayment by check (U.S. funds only) required. Please refer to complete title when ordering. Commission sponsors receive all publications at no charge.

The Joint Study in Digital Preservation. Report: Phase I (January 1990 - December 1991) Digital Capture, Paper Facsimiles, and Network Access. by Anne R. Kenney and Lynne K. Personius. Cornell University. 47 pages. $10.00.

The Organizational Phase of Project Open Book. On the status of an effort to convert microfilm to digital imagery, a report of the Yale University Library to the Commission on Preservation and Access, by Donald Waters and Shari Weaver. July 1992. 11 pages. $5.00.

[Earlier report on Open Book]
From Microfilm to Digital Imagery. A Report of the Yale University Library. June 1991. 41 pages. $5.00.

Using Scientific Information

Continued from p. 1

small institutions. Although labs try to identify projects that address important preservation needs, fiscal realities often affect the timing and nature of their research.

The Commission's decision to sponsor the workshop follows several years of working with preservation managers to develop a research agenda and a systematic collaborative review of scientific research articles. The design and conduct of the workshop, held September 9-11 at Belmont Conference Center, MD, was supported by the Commission with funds from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, while participants' institutions supported travel expenses. An informal account of the workshop, including possibilities for future action, will be distributed by the Commission.

Invited to the event were: Wes Boomgaarden, Ohio State University; Connie Brooks, Stanford University; Sherry Byrne, University of Chicago; Margaret Byrnes, National Library of Medicine; Paul Conway, Yale University; Richard Frieder, Northwestern University; Janet Gertz, Columbia University; Jan Merrill-Oldham, University of Connecticut; Carla Montori, University of Michigan; Carolyn Clark Morrow, Harvard University; Barclay Ogden, University of California, Berkeley; James Stroud, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center; Karen Turko, University of Toronto; Chris Ward, New York State Archives.

Faculty were: James R. Druzik, The Getty Conservation Institute; James M. Reilly, Image Permanence Institute; Donald K. Sebera, Library of Congress; and Peter Sparks, Consultant.

Bentley Seminar Addresses Archival Selection

Participants in a seminar held July 25-28 at the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, contributed major revisions to the draft of the Commission's forthcoming report on archival selection. The seminar was supported by an award from the Research Fellowship Program for Study of Modern Archives funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Bentley Historical Library. As a result of the wide-ranging discussions, the report now includes an enunciation of the basic principles underlying selection for preservation plus recommendations to resource allocators, to the library and archives professions, and for possible future projects and other activities.

In addition, a section on collection management and preservation addresses the elements that comprise responsible collecting and responsible custody. A final section provides guidelines for determining value and a decision model for ranking discrete groups of records within a single repository. The revised draft of the report incorporating the revisions is being reviewed by a number of the seminar participants, with publication planned for early 1993.

Most of the 15 persons at the seminar were members of the Task Force on Appraisal, the Task Force on Documentation Strategy, and the project's Advisory Committee. The Task Force on Appraisal is chaired by Robert Sink of the New York Public Library and composed of: Paul Conway, Yale University Library; Christine Ward, New York State Archives; Edie Hedlin, Consultant; Frank Boles, Central Michigan University; and Sarah Wagner, National Archives and Records Administration. The Task Force on Documentation Strategy is chaired by Timothy Ericson of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and composed of: Richard Cox, University of Pittsburgh; Karen Garlick, Smithsonian Institution; and Bruce Bruemmer, University of Minnesota. The Advisory Committee includes: Larry Hackman, New York State Archives; James O'Toole, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Anne Kenney, Cornell University; and Helen Samuels, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Also in attendance were: Nancy Elkington, Preservation Program Officer at the Research Libraries Group; Evelyn Frangakis, Manager of the Society of American Archivists Preservation Management Training Program; and Margaret Child, consultant to the Commission who has been managing the archival project.

Reprint of RLG Talk on "Electronic Technologies and Preservation"

Included with this newsletter is the printed version of a presentation by Donald J. Waters, Director of Library and Administrative Systems at Yale University Library, to the annual meeting of the Research Libraries Group, June 25, 1992. In his talk, *Electronic Technologies and Preservation*, Waters provides a series of suggestions and proposals for incorporating new technologies into libraries of the future through collaborative action. Additional copies are available, while supplies last, for $5.00 (prepayment required). Commission sponsors receive all publications at no charge.

RLG to Field-Test Decision Model for Archives

The Research Libraries Group, Inc., (RLG) has agreed to assume responsibility for further development and field-testing of a tool to aid archivists in assessing need and assigning a preservation priority to discrete groups of records within a repository. The decision model under development is presented in the final section of the forthcoming report on archival selection (see above).

The decision model was adapted from a survey instrument originally intended to provide a systematic process for assessing preservation needs, recommending appropriate actions, and setting preservation priorities within library collections. This model is designed to assess archival materials at the series and/or collection level and to assign preservation priorities among them.

To investigate the usefulness of the model in planning future cooperative projects, RLG's preservation and archives specialists will work with institutions interested in field testing and further refining the model. Additionally, it will be used by participants in the Society of American Archivists' preservation training program.

Geologists Demonstrate Image Technology

Earth Science researchers will begin their discussion of special preservation problems in the geology literature with a demonstration of the results of the Joint Task Force on Text and Image Pilot Project at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) this month in Cincinnati. The demonstration is being done in conjunction with the Geoscience Information Society (GIS), an affiliated society of GSA. The GIS exhibition hall booth will be set up to display the preservation options tested in the pilot project. Geologists will be able to try out the alternatives and discuss preservation with members of GIS.

The Geoscience Information Society has used the occasion of the pilot project demonstration to bring other preservation issues to the attention of the geology community. The Symposium organized by the society will include papers on preservation of photographs, digital imagery and experimentation with deacidification of geologic images. The Geological Society of America has embraced discussion of preservation issues with an article appearing in the professional journal, *GSA Today*, a mention in the daily conference newspaper and a showing of *Slow Fires* in the Science Theater.

The frequent presence of oversized, color maps has retarded preservation efforts in geology and the relatively high cost of color preservation will make hard decisions necessary in the future. The pilot project consists of 28 numbers of the *New York State Museum Bulletin* containing a variety of images from botanical illustrations to geological maps. The text of the *Bulletin* has been preserved on standard archival microfilm and the images have been preserved on black and white and color A5 fiche. A CD has also been produced with black and white digital images of the text and color materials, both photographs and line drawings of the *New York State Museum Bulletin*.

Exhibits Extend Message About Preservation

The Commission's Giant Brittle Book and new modular exhibits continue their journeys across the country declaring the importance of preservation. The Giant Brittle Book exhibit spent late winter and early spring traveling from Missouri to Massachusetts. The exhibit was loaned to the Washington University Medical Library and the Amherst College Library from February through May. According to Daria D'Arienzo, the Archivist of the College at Amherst, the exhibit was "impressive . . . and a great visual." The reactions to the exhibit were positive and prompted several requests for more information about preservation.

The modular exhibit was displayed at the University of Tennessee, the Medieval Academy Committee on Library Preservation, the spring membership conference of AMIGOS, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. The 10x7 foot display around a full-color photograph of a brittle book with crumbling paper was "eye-catching," according to Martha Griffin of the Archives Department at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The exhibit stood in the periodicals reading area where it was highly visible to students and faculty. Ms. Griffin commented that the exhibit was "helpful to educate users of the library. It's a reminder to people that preservation is just as important as any other technological advancement in the library field." Both exhibits are available for the upcoming fall months; contact Rebecca Kelly at (202) 939-3400 for more information.

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Providing Access To The Accumulated Human Record As Far Into The Future As Possible

Newsletter

NUMBER 51 NOV.-DEC. 1992

Board Approves Contracts as Part of Digital Preservation Consortium Activities

Two contracts specifying the development of digital preservation demonstrations were approved by the Commission Board at its October 1992 meeting in Washington, DC. The contracts for preservation and access explorations at Yale University and the University of Southern California build on the activities of an evolving digital preservation consortium.

The contract with Yale University, funded from the Commission's grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, details required steps for Phase II of Project Open Book, which seeks to convert 10,000 volumes from microfilm to a digital image library. After focusing in Phase I on organizational aspects including preparation of a budget and selection of a vendor partner, the second phase involves working with the selected vendor, the Xerox Corporation, to devise a production level conversion process while converting about 100 volumes from microfilm to digital images. The contract calls for initial planning activities for Phase II, which is estimated to take 10 months.

The contract with the University of Southern California (USC), supported with the Commission's grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, represents a portion of a joint venture with Cornell University and the Eastman Kodak Corporation to explore the feasibility of the new Kodak photo-CD process for preservation of and access to deteriorating photographic collections. The contract specifies planning and integration activities at campus and inter-university levels. A systems integrator will plan the system by consulting with technical experts across the USC campus, including the cinema/TV school, the signals processing and image recognition lab, the art school, and the history department, among others.

Planning will include consultation with faculty about system requirements, with copyright holders about managing rights in a networked environment, and with vendors — including Kodak — to develop a detailed proposal for funding the implementation of the project on a large scale. The project will proceed in cooperation with similar efforts at Cornell University, to ensure that the standards and objectives are reflective of more than local conditions alone. It is expected that some part of the testbed project will involve the exchange of digitized photographic images on the Internet.

Projects being undertaken by the digital preservation consortium seek to advance the use and utility of digital technology for preserving and improving access to intellectual works of national and international importance through cooperative action and a supportive multi-institutional infrastructure. In addition to Yale, USC, and Cornell, other consortium members are The University of Tennessee, Pennsylvania State University, Harvard University, Princeton University, and Stanford University.

The movement to preserve and disseminate books in electronic form is now so strong it can't be stopped.

— M. Stuart Lynn, quoted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education, February 12, 1992.*

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Announces Grant for Commission Program Support

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has provided $1.5 million to the Commission on Preservation and Access for use over a period of three and one-half years as program support. The Commission requested funding for those areas deemed most important by the Commission's clientele as reported in the *Review and Assessment Committee Report* (September 1991). The grant will help maintain and expand activities in the areas of communications and publications, technology, scholarly involvement, and non-print materials. The Commission's International Program is supported by another grant from the Mellon Foundation.

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The Smithsonian Institution Libraries Become 51st Sponsor of Commission

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries has become the 51st sponsor of the Commission. The support of sponsors makes it possible for the Commission to continue existing activities as well as expand into new priority areas in the preservation and access agenda.

All sponsors receive expedited mailings of Commission newsletters, reports, and publications, as well as additional complimentary copies of materials upon request. They also are entitled to use the Commission's preservation exhibits with no service charge.

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Mellon Grant

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The Mellon Foundation's support of the Commission began with an initial grant in March 1988. The important flexibility in the use of those grant funds has been crucial to the Commission's ability to catalyze action, stimulate cooperative efforts, and respond promptly to new technologies and other unforeseen opportunities characteristic of a volatile technical environment and the changing nature of the preservation challenge.

Commission Releases . . .

Paper From Technology Assessment Advisory Committee

A paper principally authored by TAAC member Michael Lesk entitled *Preservation of New Technology* is now available. This preliminary exploration into the preservation and archival implications of the newer nonprint media, particularly digital media, opens up many new issues for librarians, information center managers, preservation administrators and archivists.

The report deals with a broad spectrum of policy issues that arise from the short-lived nature of the media itself and the rapid obsolescence of the access technology. It stresses that frequent or regular copying or "refreshing" of the information, images and sound will be necessary to extend the life of the content. This poses not only technical issues, but the more difficult policy issues such as establishing responsibility for their continuing preservation, the new economic considerations, the need for standards and the need to reexamine copyright issues that are posed by this activity. Since an increasing amount of preservation of imperiled print material will itself result in digital formats, the issues involve not only current and future electronic production but future access to our current preservation efforts of print materials.

Preservation of New Technology, a Report of the Technology Assessment Advisory Committee by Michael Lesk. October 1992. 17 pages. $5.00.

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Patricia Battin · President
Maxine K. Sitts · Program Officer, Editor.

Results From Survey of Micropublishers

The final results of the *Survey of Micropublishers* are now available. Managed by the Research Libraries Group, Inc. under contract to the Commission, the survey investigated the practices and use of standards by the producers of first generation microfilm.

The purpose of the survey was to learn how precisely microfilm producers of all types produce and store microfilm. With this data, the preservation community can assess and evaluate the quality of reformatting efforts in both the academic and commercial worlds and can then design preservation strategies for the future.

Conducted in late 1991, the survey was mailed to 675 microfilm producers. Conclusions were reached through data analysis. The survey did not attempt to verify findings through examination of microfilm. Principal conclusions and recommendations are:

1. The level of adherence to standards for microfilm produced for profit and that produced specifically for preservation purposes is about the same, but the general adherence to standards could be improved significantly by all types of micropublishers.

2. It would be advisable for the preservation community to develop clear, unambiguous language to describe the purchase, transfer and assignment of rights of microfilms of each generation.

3. Routine inspection programs for stored microfilm should also be immediately devised and implemented.

In light of these findings, RLG plans to review procedures for the inspection of stored microfilm and issue guidelines.

Survey of Micropublishers, by Erich Kesse, University of Florida, October 1992. 12 pages, $5.00. Also available *Supplementary Material* (including survey results and Appendix), October 1992. 78 pages, $10.00.

For both publications, prepayment in U.S. funds is required, with checks made payable to "Commission on Preservation and Access," and sent to: Rebecca Kelly, Communications Assistant, Commission on Preservation and Access, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 740, Washington, DC 20036- 2217. Please refer to complete title when ordering. Commission sponsors receive all publications at no charge.

Annual Report Highlights Preservation Efforts Around the World

This year the focus of the Commission's Annual Report is on the present and future efforts of preservation specialists around the world. The 1991-92 report features a special section titled "An International Perspective" written by consultant Hans Rütimann. Previous annual reports have highlighted the "users and keepers" of knowledge — the library, archival and scholarly communities, while this year's report conveys developments in technology, leading toward the digital library framework of the future.

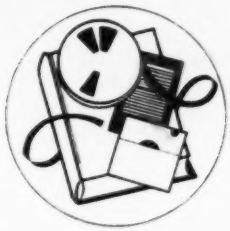
Education and training, archives, the Brittle Books program, and institutional initiatives are also covered. The 55-page report has been distributed to all on the mailing list. Additional copies are available, free of charge, while supplies last.

Media Alternatives From Preservation Microfilm

A demonstration project to create alternative media from preservation microfilm has been completed by MAPS The MicrograPhic Preservation Service, Inc. The project originated when Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory Library, in collaboration with the Geoscience Information Society of the Geological Society of America, sought to demonstrate to the scientific community the variety of end user media formats possible from preservation microfilm, both black-and-white and color. [See the article in the October 1992 newsletter, "Geologists Demonstrate Image Technology."] The project is an outgrowth of the work of the Joint Task Force on Text and Image, supported by The Getty Grant Program. MAPS' final report to the Commission includes the following findings.

Eighty-nine color prints and drawings were used to produce Cibachrome (now Ilfochrome) preservation quality color microfilm. For comparison, black-and-white preservation quality microfilm also was produced. Viewing the full frame A-6 fiche in its entirety (approximately 4" by 6") still presents some challenges. Although there is at least one projection viewer manufactured in Europe, all U.S. fiche readers known to MAPS will project only portions of a full fiche. Overhead projectors will project the image onto a screen, but details tend to wash out; maps tend to suffer most from this defect.

Paper copies of the A-6 color fiche images made with color duplicators varied in quality. Efforts to produce reasonable quality on a lower end model were not successful. With a more advanced copier, colors are not particularly faithful and resolution is less than desired, but true color distinctions were made clear. "Some of the images approached true respectability while others simply indicated different color values within the image," the report states. Paper copies from a photographic laboratory were better, "even rivalling the printed material itself."



The images on a CD-ROM produced from 35mm black-and-white microfilm are "better than anticipated and should be useful. . . ." Time constraints precluded filming the material in 35mm color, to scan and include on the disk. Compatibility of the disk's access and search software with standard hardware and operating systems later proved to be a difficulty.

The MAPS report concludes: "The most difficult part of this project lies ahead; seeing that the scientific community understands the options facing it as the printed resources supporting their academic efforts move inexorably toward useful pieces of paper dust . . . the use of film . . . does not preclude the conversion of that medium to any of a number of others, including CD-ROM. . . ."

More information is available from: MAPS, Nine S. Commerce Way, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Bibliothèque Nationale Progresses with Microfilm Master Conversion

The Bibliothèque Nationale reports progress in converting to machine-readable form its entire retrospective register of microform masters. The conversion is a joint project conducted under contract to the Commission with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The two-year contract awarded in March 1991 specifies that the BN's converted records will be shared with U.S. bibliographic utilities for use by librarians and scholars in the U.S. and abroad. Most of the titles are nineteenth century French literature.

As of August 1992, well over 100,000 records had been either transcribed onto coding sheets, prepared on fiche, or augmented if already in machine readable-form. Keyboarding of all 126,424 records was due to begin in mid-November, with editing and other tasks completed at the end of the contract term in March 1993. Microform masters are stored in Sablé, while orders for duplicates will be processed by the BN in Paris.

SOLINET's 2nd Preservation Management Seminar to be Held at Wellesley, July 22-30, 1993

SOLINET will hold its second preservation management seminar at Wellesley College in Massachusetts from July 22 through July 30, 1993. The first seminar, held in July 1991 at Washington and Lee University, received high evaluation scores from participants and their sponsoring institutions. The seminar is co-sponsored by SOLINET and the Commission. Attendance is limited and successful applicants will be selected by the College Libraries Committee of the Commission.

The seminar will enable academic libraries to implement effective, decentralized strategies for preserving their general collections. The 20 selected participants will acquire priorities, an action plan, and a timetable, as well as drafts of some critical documents tailored to their own libraries. Costs for tuition, room and board are $1,500. The Commission will award one scholarship to a qualified individual. To receive more information, a brochure and an application form, contact: Julie Arnott at SOLINET, 1438 West Peachtree Street, NW Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30309-2955 or call (404) 892-0943, ext. 256 or 1-800-999-8558.

Southwest Libraries Expect Higher Preservation Priorities

A recent needs assessment survey conducted by the AMIGOS Preservation Service reports that academic and public libraries in the southwest may be moving from a relatively pessimistic notion about current preservation priorities to a somewhat more optimistic outlook for the future. Of 226 respondents in five states (Texas, Arkansas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma), only 18 ranked preservation a current "high" priority for their institution in comparison to other programs; 63 ranked preservation "average," and 145 ranked it "low." However, in the next three years, preservation priority is expected to be higher in 9 of 24 research libraries, 16 of 57 academic libraries, 11 of 50 public libraries, 5 of 16 law libraries, 5 of 29 community college libraries and 7 of 13 archives.

AMIGOS conducted the survey to help make decisions about future preservation action at local, state, regional, and national levels. Because very few libraries and archives staff reported having preservation as a full-time duty, AMIGOS concluded that programs and services should be designed to accommodate the needs of staff with multiple duties. There also is a need for assistance in developing preservation and disaster plans and in training in preservation treatment and practice. Assessment of collections and facilities assessment (environmental control) were identified as areas for the development of consulting services.

A final report analyzing the results of the preservation needs assessment survey is available at no charge from AMIGOS Bibliographic Council, Inc., 12200 Park Central Drive, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75251.

MLA Continues Preservation Agenda

Hillis Miller's *Preserving the Literary Heritage* was reprinted in the *Modern Language Association Newsletter*, Fall 1992, Volume 23, Number 3. The Scholarly Advisory Committee on Modern Language and Literature, of which Miller is a member, met with experts in the area of preservation and devised recommendations to preserve works in their field. The reprinted paper, originally published in July 1991, outlines possible strategies for preserving endangered works of literature for future scholars.

Also worth reading is the Editor's Column in the same newsletter. Executive Director, Phyllis Franklin writes about her own research to determine whether scholars would accept copies of archival materials and collections over originals.

To obtain copies of this newsletter send $4.00 to: MLA Newsletter 10 Astor Place New York, NY 10003-6981. Request a 1992 subscription and you will receive Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter 1992.

Philatelic Scanning Project Begins

Project PAPER, a new optical-scanning program funded by the Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC) and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL), has begun a one-year trial to preserve the information contained in books, journals, government documents, and other forms of philatelic literature that are disintegrating due to deterioration of acid paper on which they were originally printed. Project planners decided to go with scanning and a hard copy instead of microfilm because stamp collectors use their reference books as a source of material and are constantly referring to them. The final product will be bound and made available to philatelic libraries and collectors throughout the world for a nominal fee. A grant of $15,000 from CCC supports personnel costs for the one-year trial. APRL is providing the optical scanning equipment, optical disks, and acid-free paper.

For more information, contact: Ginni Horn, Director, APRL, 100 Oakwood Avenue, PO Box 8338, State College, PA 16803-8338.

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